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PRE-FLIGHT ANXIETY

Sikhs say they're forced to take extra care at the airport

metroNEWS

Dress nice, be polite and keep your hands where people can see them. Jagbir Minhas says flying is more complicated when you're Sikh. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Mayor calls for answers

TRANSIT

City spending LRT cash ahead of Alta. funding commitment



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

The train has left the station, but it may never arrive if Mayor Naheed Nenshi doesn't get a firm LRT funding commitment from the province.

The City of Calgary has already put their money where their mouth is, so to speak, and invested cash in design and acquisition for the proposed north-south LRT Green Line. But the mayor said he needs answers from the province if the city wants to continue the build out.

During a GreenTRIP announcement Thursday, Infrastructure and Transportation

Minister Brian Mason squirmed as Nenshi put him in the hot seat over whether or not the province can commit Green Line dollars with a looming \$10-billion deficit.

"We're not going to get the money in this budget — it's not coming in this budget is it?" inquired Nenshi. To which Mason quietly responded: "He's trying to get me fired."

"If it's not in this budget, what I'm going to need towards this summer and this autumn is a real firm commitment, because the city has been fronting the costs on design work and some land acquisition," Nenshi continued.

"I don't want to spend a whole bunch of the city's cash if this is going to be a non-starter."

Mason gave the mayor a preview of a letter he sent in response to funding queries, but no solid commitment on cash.

"We're very interested in supporting you, we have difficult financial circumstances," said Mason.



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‘They threatened to cut my fingers off,’ alleges MS patient

NORTHWEST CALGARY

Legal grow-op robbed, two men assaulted



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

An overnight home invasion at a legal marijuana grow-op in the city's northwest sent one man to hospital and has the homeowner shaken up.

Keith Gall, who suffers from multiple sclerosis (MS) and is restricted to a wheelchair, said four or five men broke into his home on Citadel Peak Circle NW, around 2 a.m. Thursday morning.

“They bust in my back door and they tied us up, and they beat my friend Daryl up real bad here and they beat me up a little bit,” he said. “They wanted \$50,000 they said and they couldn’t find it, so they beat us up a little more and threatened to kill my cat.”

Staff Sgt. Andy Nguyen confirmed to Metro that they were investigating a home invasion at Gall’s home. Gall, who legally grows his own medicinal marijuana to help with his MS, alleges both he and his friend Daryl Hegg were tied up, duct taped and threatened with terrifying violence by the masked assailants.

“They threatened to cut my fingers off one at a time until they got the \$50,000,” he said.

Gall, whose annual income



Keith Gall, left, and Daryl Hegg, say they were bound with duct tape, beaten and threatened in a NW Calgary break-and-enter early Thursday. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO



They bust in my back door and they tied us up, and they beat my friend Daryl up real bad ... Keith Gall

doesn’t meet the \$50,000 range, said he has no idea why they thought he would

have that kind of cash.

“It was a legal marijuana operation so that’s what the

culprits took from the home,” said Nguyen.

Gall said the culprits took off with around five ounces of marijuana, as well as some of his personal items including his wallet and keys to his truck.

According to Gall, Hegg was taken to the hospital but is now

back home.

“They tied me up in bed so I couldn’t leave and smacked me around a bit — I’ve got a big fat lip,” he said. “My hand is a little bit bugged up from the tape but they beat Daryl real bad — they kicked his ribs in.”

“He’s home again. He’s got

about four or five stitches over his eye and some in his nose,” added Gall. “They patched him up and brought him home.”

Gall said the only people who should be aware of his grow-op are his Facebook friends, CPS, Alberta Health Services and Health Canada.



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COUNTRY

City worker says she's assault victim

INFORMATION SESSION

Describes poor behaviour of some people

Emma Stevens said she's the City of Calgary employee who was physically assaulted last October at an information session involving the concerned citizens group Ready to Engage.

Stevens comments come into

light after Mayor Naheed Nenshi pulled the plug on face-to-face engagement on the southwest rapid transit (SW BRT) project Wednesday.

On Tuesday night, staff reported yelling, swearing, pushing, a physical assault and a death threat during an info session in Woodbine, Nenshi said.

Stevens said other employees have felt exhausted after the info sessions.

"I'm also the one — and cer-

tainly not the only one — that comes home late at night, physically and emotionally exhausted from the verbal abuse endured in the name of public engagement," said Stevens in a Facebook post.

She works with the city's transit department, planning communications projects for bikeways and transit projects.

"I spend many of my nights at public engagement events. Lots of citizens have great ideas that help us improve our projects and



Emma Stevens. FACEBOOK

I'm thrilled that I can be a conduit for those voices," she said.

"But not all citizens demonstrate the respect that my colleagues and I deserve, not just as city staff trying to do a job, but as human beings.

"I have been berated, demeaned, physically assaulted and disrespected by complete strangers on too many occasions."

On Wednesday, Nenshi said he won't tolerate threats, violence and intimidation against Calgarians and city employees. Ready to Engage spokesman

Rick Donkers said the city is denying citizens their democratic right by halting public engagement.

Stevens said she's sorry Calgarians won't get the chance to provide their input in person because of bad behaviour on the part of some.

The city will switch to online engagement regarding the SW BRT.

Police are investigating the incident. METRO

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Nenshi alleges someone 'wanted to strangle' a female city employee at a recent public session. METRO FILE PHOTO

CIVILITY

Say sorry for abuse of city staff: Mayor

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Mayor Naheed Nenshi wants an apology after alleged attacks against public servants during the latest Southwest Rapid Bus Transit consultations. But a Ready to Engage spokesperson wants to know: apologize for what?

City of Calgary staff reported yelling, swearing, pushing and shoving, a physical assault and even a death threat during an information session in Woodbine Tuesday night. But the public engagement group says they are not responsible.

"It's very clear that this stuff happened," Nenshi told reporters Thursday. "When I hear someone saying about one of my colleagues: 'Where is that bitch? I want to strangle her.' This is not acceptable, this is not acceptable at all."

Nenshi went on to say he's been in touch with many citizens about so-called petition "tactics" and verbal abuse. He said there's currently a police investigation into allegations involving the group and city staff.

In a press release, Ready to Engage asked the mayor to

apologize to them for the accusations.

"How are any of those allegations directly attributed to Ready to Engage?" asked group spokesman Rick Donkers. "The mayor has made statements regarding our involvement and has failed to follow up on them...I can tell you that no one within Ready to Engage has been contacted by a police organization in regards to their investigation."

Nenshi continued to say he wasn't aware of the incident reported in October, where it's said an altercation took place, and if he had known there was a history of alleged abuse, the city would have responded accordingly.

"I don't want to say too much about our security plans. I didn't know about the incident in October until I got the briefing on the day before yesterday's meeting," said Nenshi. "Had I known, I would have put my foot down harder earlier on."

Donkers said if any of the allegations are true, they are reprehensible.

"Ready to Engage does not support anything other than a respectful dialogue between city staffers and the general public," said Donkers.

“Ready to Engage does not support anything other than a respectful dialogue. Rick Donkers

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New info in double homicide

CRIME

Friends of victims have renewed \$25K reward for tips



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Following the second anniversary of the unsolved homicide of Don and Roxanne Carlson, police are releasing new leads while friends of the Carlsons renew the reward for information.

Thursday, Roxanne's brother, Rick Watson made an emotional plea for someone to step forward with any information into his sister and brother-in-law's death.

"Our family is hoping every day that justice is done and we will do everything we can to support the police," he said. "We just want it solved."

Insp. Steve Barlow said initially the Calgary Fire Department was called in before 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, to respond to an alleged



Police want to identify these men in relation to their homicide investigation. COURTESY CPS

carbon monoxide complaint at a residence in the 12200 block of Lake Erie Road SE.

Inside the home two people were found dead. Carbon monoxide was ruled out and the CPS Homicide Unit was brought in to investigate.

Cause of death has not, and will not be released, said Barlow.

On the one-year anniversary of their death, police released a composite sketch of men observed in the area on Friday, Feb. 14 and Saturday, Feb. 15,

2014. These men remain people of interest in the investigation and have yet to be identified.

At the time of the composite sketches being released, police also released information about a newer silver or grey pickup truck, possibly a Toyota that

"We just want it solved."
Rick Watson

was believed to be present near the Carlsons' residence prior to their discovery.

Since that release, officers have traced the truck back to a rental agency. A man believed to be using fraudulent B.C. identification and credit cards rented the truck.

Police are asking the public for assistance in identifying and locating him.

"We're begging anyone in the public who might have information to come forward and realize that two people have been killed," said Barlow.

Friends of the Carlsons have renewed the \$25,000 reward for information directly responsible for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the murders.

To be eligible for this reward, anyone with information related to the homicide is asked to contact the Homicide Unit directly at homicidetips@calgarypolice.ca or by phone at (403) 428-8877.

HEALTH

Flu deaths spike



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Flu-related deaths in the province have more than doubled since the first deaths were reported in early January.

As of Thursday, 13 Albertans died due to flu related complications, up seven deaths from five that were reported on Jan. 14, according to Alberta Health Services (AHS).

Of those deaths, many weren't immunized and most were between 18 and 64 years old.

Though there's been an uptick in deaths, this year's flu season isn't as severe compared to years past, according to Dr. Judy MacDonald, a medical officer of health in the Calgary Zone with AHS.

As of Thursday, there have been 1,104,125 doses of the vaccine administered, a dip of 118,296 doses from 1,222,421 administered on Feb. 25, 2015.

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Jered Gracher's vehicle was found Thursday by CPS.
CONTRIBUTED

Man's truck stolen from dealership

THEFT

Northstar Ford has no security cameras in its parking lot



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

A Calgary man is warning others not to leave their valuables in their vehicles — no matter what — after his truck was stolen from a dealership while getting repairs.

Jered Gracher, whose truck — a 2003 Ford F350 — was found Thursday by Calgary Police after a public tip that an unknown vehicle had been abandoned in the 7000 block of 40th st NE, said he's learned his lesson the hard way.

"If you're going to bring it to any dealership, regardless if they have security or not, just to take everything out of your vehicle," he said. "Even if you can get some of it replaced the worst part is you won't get the full value of what was in there and some of the stuff is irreplaceable."

Gracher said he had his truck towed to Northstar Ford on Feb. 13 after it wouldn't start. He said after a week of back and forth calls, he was fed up and called again about the

status of his truck. Finally, he was told it was ready and went to pick it up this past Tuesday.

"I went in to get my truck, I grabbed the keys and ran off to a meeting for 6 p.m. and I told them I would be back by 7:30 p.m. to grab the truck and they said that was fine," he said.

When Gracher came back to collect his truck it was nowhere to be found.

"I went inside and talked to the same manager I was dealing with earlier and he walked around the lot searching for my truck for about 20 to 30 minutes with no luck," he said.

He said he has since learned that there are no security measures at the lot, aside from a security guard who comes by a few times a night.

Stacey James, vice-president of operations, confirmed to Metro they have no security cameras on site.

"We have a hired security team that goes through both our parking lot at regular intervals throughout the evening," said James.

Gracher, who was in the process of moving, said many irreplaceable personal items were taken from his truck including drawings from his kids and photo albums.

"I don't even care about the truck. It can be replaced," he said. "The stuff that is important to me, and only me, can't be."

POLICING

Speed up review of Police Act: Chief

Calgary police Chief Roger Chaffin said a review of the Police Act needs to be expedited.

On Tuesday, at the Calgary Police Commission (CPC) meeting, Johnathan Liu gave an update to members stating that the Police Act would undergo a review by 2018.

Since then, CPC has clarified that there's no set timeline for a review of the Police Act and they've been told major stakeholder consultations would need

to take place for that to happen.

Chaffin said, however, that he thinks a review by 2018 is unlikely.

"I'm not being bitchy, but we're in 2016 — Year 1 of that government, and 2018, that will be Year 3. What's the likelihood that they're going to get into amendments in Year 3 of their government when they're just getting into election mode," he said. "If they get into election mode they'll shut down that

kind of work."

He said he'd like to see more specific direction to start work reviewing the Police Act now.

"If it was up to me, I'd rather see the process begin in earnest earlier," said the chief.

He said he realizes there needs to be a strong stakeholder consultation, and said if the review happens in 2018, "it's unlikely we'd see any results until the 2020s."

Chaffin said for him the main

priorities for re-evaluation in the Police Act would be primarily to fix complex details of how to handle allegations of misconduct, as well as conflicting language within the act in areas such as hiring and the role of the chief.

Alberta Minister of Justice, Kathleen Ganley said they're open to receiving suggestions from stakeholders, but said to date there have been no decisions to open the Police Act.

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Calgary Transit plans station facelifts

TRANSPORTATION

Upgrades expected to cost about \$2M per station



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

The Rundle and Malborough CTrain stations are the oldest in the system, and at 31, they need some work.

Calgary Transit is bringing them up to snuff by injecting \$2 million into each for some needed cosmetic upgrades. The projects will begin spring 2016 and finish up summer 2017 without interruptions to passengers.

"The layout is changing to improve pedestrian traffic flow," said Calgary Transit spokesman Ron Collins. "Upgrades to building finishes like new floor tiles, wall panels, ceiling and benches will give it a really nice freshening up. That's what they need after 31 years."

Collins added the use of nat-



Renderings of the proposed look and feel for both Rundle and Malborough stations. COURTESY CALGARY TRANSIT

ural light will be improved to augment the feel of the station like Transit did to the Whitehorn station in 2011.

One of the escalators will be

removed from the station to allow for a wider set of stairs. Collins said escalators come with upkeep costs, so Calgary Transit is trying to cut back



on them where they're not needed.

Those who need an accessible ride can still use the elevators, which will be in the

same trusty spots, but have an interior refresh.

"We're going to be also reconfiguring some of the locations of the CCTV cameras to

“

The layout is changing to improve pedestrian traffic flow.

Ron Collins

ensure through the renovation process there are no potential blindspots," said Collins. "Every nook and cranny will be covered by a camera."

Hayley Grossmith hops on the CTrain at Malborough Station to get to work.

"If you take the train early in the morning, when it's dark out, it would feel a bit safer if it was lighter and a little bit new and up to date," said Grossmith.

"I do feel safe right now, but it depends on the hours. I think it would be good for everyone to get a good vibe going on."

She said she understands the need to give older stations a lift, noting she doesn't see the station to be very accessible.

The projects are expected to cost about \$2 million per station. Collins said they are looking for funding to address other northeast stations.

— WITH FILES FROM JENNIFER FRIESEN



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Minister Deron Bilous echoed Calgary Economic Development's message of innovation and diversification. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

INFRASTRUCTURE

Deficit won't stop development: Minister

Despite a \$10.5-billion millstone around the government's neck, the province's minister of economic development said it won't hold back plans to spur Alberta growth.

On Wednesday, Finance Minister Joe Ceci announced a projected \$10.5-billion deficit for the province.

Minister Deron Bilous told reporters Thursday that despite the fiscal news, jobs and the economy are still the NDP government's top priority.

"The sustained low price of oil is having significant impact obviously on our budget, but our government recognizes though that now's the time to invest in infrastructure," Bilous said after delivering the closing address at Calgary Economic Development's economic summit Thursday.

"Our government is prioritizing a path to fiscal balance, public infrastructure and economic diversification and economic stimulus."

Bilous was vague when pressed on specifics, instead saying that the NDP cabinet has been working behind closed doors on the development of a number of initiatives he said will be rolled out over the coming months.

In his speech to dozens of Calgary business leaders, Bilous said that businesses, not government, should be Alberta's biggest job creators. When asked why the government's priority was publicly

funded infrastructure rather than other economic measures to provide job growth, Bilous said those projects help businesses put people back to work.

"At the end of the day, the government is not the job creator, but through an investment in capital infrastructure, the construction industry, those that are using those dollars to build roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, create jobs," Bilous said.

DARREN KRAUSE/METRO

Innovation the message at summit

ECONOMY

Top business leaders gather to talk about diversification



Darren Krause
Metro | Calgary

How can Calgary businesses continue to encourage innovation and diversification in the city's economy?

That question was posed Tuesday at the Telus Convention Centre in downtown Calgary to dozens of business leaders gathered for the Calgary Economic Development (CED) Economic Summit.

At the event, CED president and CEO Mary Moran rolled out the first look at Opportunity Calgary, part of the group's newly built economic blueprint for the city. Opportunity Calgary focuses on diversifying Calgary's economy and positioning the city as an international hub of innovation.

"In what has obviously become a polarized debate about market access, the entire country, if not the world, is watching Calgary and Alberta, and they want to see how, and

maybe some of them even if, we will emerge from this ever-shifting world around us."

Moran underscored what she said is being heard on street corners around Calgary: we need to diversify and we need to innovate.

Attendees were grouped together to discuss two primary questions: What can Calgary businesses do immediately to push innovation and what can government do to help?

"Today is not about talking about our problems — although we could spend some time doing that," said Moran.

"It's really talking about the opportunities and the solutions for the future. It's about looking forward and not looking back."

Both Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Minister of Economic Development Deron Bilous were in attendance and echoed the desire for innovation and economic diversification.

"Looking for those opportunities was the spirit that our economy was built on," said Bilous.

"Calgary today is an energetic leader, a driver of innovation and economic activity."

More details on Calgary Economic Development's strategy are expected to be rolled out in the coming months.



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ALBERTA NEWS

Puppies stolen during late night home invasion

The Calgary Police Service is investigating a home invasion that took place overnight in the community of Edgemont where the assailants took off with two six-week-old pit bull puppies.

Staff Sgt. Andy Nguyen said CPS was called to the 200 block of Edgeburn Lane just before 11:30 p.m. Wednesday. He said no one was injured.

Nguyen said there were four adults and two teens home at the time of the robbery.

CPS continues to investigate. Anyone with information is asked to call the non-emergency line at 403-266-1234.

LUCIE EDWARDSON/METRO

Skier dies from injuries sustained in Sunday avalanche

RCMP say a southern Alberta man who was hurt Sunday in an avalanche while skiing near Golden, British Columbia, has died of his injuries.

The 64-year-old man, who was from Canmore, was airlifted to Calgary in critical condition.

He was one of six people who were hurt in the slide during a self-guided trip near Sunshine Lodge.

The previous day Nick Roberts, a Calgary Fire Department technician, was killed in an avalanche in the same region while snowmobiling with friends.

Both groups were out despite a special warning that was issued by Avalanche Canada Friday warning of the possibility of "very large and dangerous avalanches" in the region. Eight people have died in British Columbia this season due to avalanches.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Khalid Merali has faced racial taunts on the ice, but officials say they have to hear the insult before they can take action. SUBMITTED

Family outraged by racial slurs at game

SPORTS

Hockey Calgary hasn't made the right call: Player's parents

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The word "terrorist" is not one most people like hearing — let alone being called one at their hockey game.

But, this is allegedly the case for Al Merali's 16-year-old son. Merali said his son was called a "brown-terrorist" during a hockey game in early February,

and when his son, himself and the coach complained, nothing was done.

Merali then penned an open letter stating:

"These racial comments must be stopped and penalized. Hockey Calgary is quick to suspend players for bad behaviors but when it comes to racism, nothing has ever been done. Our family has been in this country for three generations and I can't believe that public racism still goes on. We are proud to be Canadian Ismaili Muslims. Canadian society does not distinguish in terms of religion. It celebrates its uniqueness, differences and it absorbs all faiths in its mainstream."

Executive director of Hockey Calgary, Kevin Kobelka, said the issue is complicated, and that

11

There have already been **11 suspensions** within Hockey Calgary this year due to discriminatory remarks—more than double from last year.

in this case, the referee did the right thing.

"The biggest challenge we have is that an official can't make a call if he does not hear or witness the event," he said.

"Unfortunately in this situation it might very well have happened but the official did not hear the racial slur so he

cannot make the call."

In a letter to the family, Kobelka said Hockey Calgary had investigated the issue and passed along their regrets to the Merali family for the inappropriate language directed at their son, but said it's not a cut and dry issue.

"We constantly strive to provide a safe, fun and positive atmosphere for the players and teams we serve, however, our officials may not always be in a position to hear and identify a player who has uttered a derogatory remark," said the letter.

Merali said that simply isn't good enough, and that Hockey Calgary has "dropped the ball."

"They make great calls when there are illegal hits but when it comes to these remarks they do nothing," he said.

HEALTH

Organ surgery record broken

Edmonton surgeons broke three local transplant records last year — performing more liver and lung transplants in the city than ever before, according to Alberta Health Services.

Last year, surgeons performed 61 lung transplants, beating the previous record of 44 set in 2014. They transplanted 83 livers, more than the 80 they did in 2007.

Of those, 22 were from a living donor, also a new record.

Tim Penstone, 63, is one of the people breathing easier as a result of a lung transplant last March. After being diagnosed with a chronic lung disease his lung capacity drastically shrank over the course of eight months.

"I was on oxygen full time, it really impacted my ability to do things," Penstone said, in a release. He's now back running his company.

"Without a lung transplant, I may not be here today. I owe my life to my donor."

Despite the increase in transplants there is still a shortage of donors in the city. According to Dr. Norman Kneteman, a liver transplant surgeon with Alberta Health Services, about one-in-three patients waiting for a lung or liver dies before one becomes available.

"We have the potential to perform more transplants each year but we are limited by the number of donor organs available," he said in a release.

Alberta currently has one of the lowest organ and tissue rates in the country, and only one to two per cent of deaths lead to organ donation.

In 2014 the provincial government started an online organ and tissue donation registry, and since then more than 200,000 Albertans have registered. METRO

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Work is needed, 'not sexy': Nenshi

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Mayor Naheed Nenshi was looking for the silver lining in a story about aging infrastructure that left several Calgary drivers with flat tires.

On Wednesday, a damaged bridge on Glenmore Trail caused damage to about 14 vehicles, according to a City of Calgary spokesperson.

The problem was caused when an expansion joint on the bridge failed.

On Thursday, the mayor was at a press conference with Transportation Minister Brian Mason when the issue came up.

The minister acknowledged

that the province has no shortage of infrastructure nearing the end of its life cycle.

Mayor Nenshi noted the bridge in question is set to be replaced next year, and that the city has been better than most municipalities about

putting away money for life-cycle maintenance on infrastructure.

"If (the provincial and federal governments) are interested in immediate stimulus work, one of the best ways to get people to work

right away is further life-cycle work," said Nenshi.

"It's not sexy — it's in the bathroom, in the plumbing, in the roof of the local hockey arena, but it's work that needs to be done."

One of the best ways to get people to work right away is further life-cycle work.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi

TRANSPORTATION

Transit funds on tap

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

It's the final countdown for GreenTRIP cash.

On Thursday, the province announced the third, and final call for GreenTRIP funding. There's a total \$415 million up for grabs, with applications due by the end of June.

"Support for transit is support for all Albertans. GreenTRIP capital infrastructure spending will create much-needed jobs," said Transportation Minister Brian Mason in a prepared statement Thursday.

Applications are being ac-

cepted for projects in the Calgary Regional Partnership, a \$130 million dollar share, and \$285 million for rural municipalities.

This is the last chunk of change for transportation projects (not enough to cover any Green Line asks), but Mason said new funding mechanisms are coming soon.

"There's money included in the 2015 budget for transit initiatives, and we're about to initiate a consultation program around rural bus service and around funding criteria for the new transit capital funding program," said Mason.

Edmonton has exhausted its funding, with \$800 million already allocated.



Gina Cherkowski started STEM Learning Lab as a way to engage kids in math, especially if they're not getting it in the classroom.

AARON CHATHA / METRO

Math troubles turned into troubleshooting

STARTUP

Educator gets kids excited about solving problems

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Gina Cherkowski believes more can be done to get kids interested in math — specifically, by appealing to their interests: robots.

Cherkowski left her job as a math teacher to launch STEM Learning Lab a year ago, with

the purpose of getting kids to become more interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). It appears as though her work is making a difference as she was recently nominated for an Alberta Women Entrepreneurs Emerging Innovator award.

She realized she needed to try a different tactic to engage kids when she saw students separated into different levels of math based on junior-high scores.

"I was tired of being in a system that filtered kids out way too early," she said. "Nobody should have their future decided for them in Grade 8 or 9 just because of the level or stream of

Nobody should have their future decided for them in Grade 8 or 9.

Gina Cherkowski

math they're taking."

Now STEM Learning Lab visits schools to teach kids about robotics. After school she teaches programming skills. During the summer, she's partnered with Beakerhead and offers camps for kids to learn more.

"When I was a math teacher,

if a kid got something wrong, they would shut down. 'I hate math, I can't do it,'" she recalled. "Now when they get something that doesn't work in our camps, they are so excited about figuring it out that they just keep troubleshooting."

Cherkowski said STEM fields are the fastest growing sector for jobs right now.

"In Canada, 70 per cent of jobs in the future will have some sort of STEM relation," she said. "If kids are going to be prepared for the future, we need to teach them these skills."

Cherkowski will be expanding STEM Learning Lab to Saskatchewan and B.C. this year.



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Festival feels fit as fiddle at 85

MUSIC

Event adds category for city's beloved instrument



Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

Claire Cook first heard the fiddle when she was four years old.

Her mother, Meredith Bryan, always admired the sound of the instrument and brought Claire to a music teacher to see if that curiosity passed on to the next generation. As the teacher, Catherine Rose, began to play Oh Susanna, Claire was instantly enthralled.

"She loved it from the first moment she heard it," said Bryan. "She was singing Oh Susanna the whole way home and she's been just as excited ever since."

Now, at eight years old, Claire is among the first fiddlers to join in the Calgary Performing Arts Festival (formerly known as the Kiwanis Festival) this May. Due to a rise in popularity, the festival



Claire Cook, 8, will be among the first students to perform the fiddle at the Calgary Performing Arts Festival. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

made fiddling the latest musical category this year.

"Once you start reaching out, you realize that there's a great big world of people out there who are completely focused on the fiddle," said Mary Ross, executive director of the Calgary Performing Arts Festival. "It's fun



Calgary is sort of a mecca for fiddling.

Catherine Rose

music and it certainly deserves its own category."

With more than 3,700 performances involving 10,000 amateur performers, the festival is one of North America's largest. This year marks its 85th anniversary.

The festival will now take

place at Mount Royal University instead of the Jubilee Auditorium.

Rose has played violin for 53 years and began teaching it 14 years ago. She said she isn't surprised by the rise in interest.

"Calgary is sort of a mecca for fiddling," she said.

"When I moved here, I ran

+ DETAILS

The 85th annual Calgary Performing Arts Festival will be held April 18 to May 7, 2016 at Mount Royal University.

into fiddle music everywhere and so I decided to see how my students liked it — and they loved it. As a teacher, I was thrilled to see them engaging with music so much."

Since then, Rose said, more and more students are requesting to learn fiddle music, which is distinct from classical violin music by the upbeat sound and fast pace.

"I've seen quite a growth," Rose continued.

"People like the music, especially children. You can't sit still and not tap your feet when you hear fiddle music. It's happy music; it makes you want to get up and dance."

As for Claire, she can't help but agree. After playing four songs in her living room, she says, "I feel happy when I play. It's beautiful."

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Apollo astronaut Buzz Aldrin passed through Calgary Airport on Wednesday. He's pictured here with volunteers Eileen McEachern, Margaret Hunziker, and Bill Masson. CALGARY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

A Buzz at Calgary Airport

CELEBRITY

Ex astronaut in Lethbridge for speaking engagement



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

There's a starman waiting at Gate 9. He'd like to have a White Hat, and we said we're gonna try.

With all apologies to the late David Bowie, Calgary International Airport had an out-of-this-world celebrity pass through on Wednesday.

Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, stopped for a quick photo with a group of the White Hat Volunteers on his way

through the city. Aldrin had been in Lethbridge along with former Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield for a public speaking event.

A prolific twitter user, Aldrin tweeted a photo from his White Hat ceremony.

"I got White Hat treatment at @flyYYC leaving Calgary today by those friendly Canadians. I wanted to keep the hat!" Henry Stevens, director of corporate communi-

cations with Calgary Airport Authority said at the time, they were unable to give Aldrin the White Hat from the ceremony.

They're now trying to rectify that problem with mission control. "We have reached out to Mr. Aldrin to make sure he gets a hat," said Stevens.

There's no word on whether or not Aldrin visited the Spaceport exhibit to look at the moon rock.



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MENTAL HEALTH REVIEW

Psychiatric care neglected: Swann



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Though psychiatric care consumes 80 per cent of the mental health budget, it isn't mentioned once among the government's 32 Mental Health Review recommendations.

The recommendations — unveiled earlier this week — largely address enhancing community mental health.

There's little in the report that addresses patients who are bipolar, schizophrenic or psychotic. Alberta Liberal Leader Dr. David Swann, who co-chaired the review, said psychiatrists were part of discussions involving the report.

One of the key issues they discussed, Swann said, was that there is a lack of child and adult psychiatrists in the province.

Psychiatrists also said they'd like to see an improvement of psychiatric care in the province, Swann said. However, he said pressures for psychiatric care will ease once the system improves at a community level.

"(Psychiatry care) is strapped because the rest of the system isn't pulling its weight," Swann said. "There's a tremendous amount we can do in the system to reduce the medical psychiatric side of the system."

When asked why psychiatry wasn't mentioned, Associate Health Minister Brandy Payne said the panel — among them being psychiatrists — wrote its recommendations based on what Albertans were experiencing in the mental health system.

"At the end of the day, addiction and mental health isn't about access to one type of care provider only, but about that spectrum of care."



The province plans to immediately increase the number of detox beds. CONTRIBUTED

POLICE

Sheriff charged with driving offences demoted

An Alberta traffic sheriff has been charged with dangerous driving and speeding while on duty.

RCMP say the charges relate to six alleged offences between May and October of 2015 on highways west of Edmonton, near Jasper and Edson.

They say the sheriff did not cause any accidents or

injuries and an investigation began after an internal review found "irregularities."

Sean Myher is to appear in Edson court March 15.

Myher, a sworn peace officer for the province, was part of an integrated traffic enforcement unit with the RCMP.

Alberta Justice says Myher is currently on administrative duties.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Police officer Sasa Novakovic said he is grateful to Eugene DeRose for helping him while he was being assaulted. SANAM ISLAM/METRO

Good Samaritan gives officer a hand

POLICE

Eugene DeRose being nominated for citizen award



Sanam Islam
Metro | Edmonton

An Edmonton man is being hailed as a hero after stepping in to help a police officer being attacked.

"I didn't even think — I just reacted. I knew if I didn't do anything at that moment, it would have gotten a lot worse," said Eugene DeRose, who last Wednesday helped a police officer survive an assault on the streets.

Const. Sasa Novakovic said he's nominating DeRose to receive the Edmonton Police Commission's Citizen Award for the bravery he showed.

On Feb. 17, Novakovic said he asked for the names of a man and

a woman jaywalking across four lanes in the 111 Avenue and 95A Street area during rush hour.

After they refused to cooperate, Novakovic said he attempted to apprehend the man for obstruction.

"Once I tried to arrest the subject, he became combative, charging at me with his fists. We fought standing, until we ended up on the ground," Novakovic said.

"Once on the pavement, the 280-pound subject ended up on top of me, with most of his weight on my chest, and continued assaulting me."

Novakovic said he was having difficulty breathing and his options were limited.

It was at that time that DeRose, who was driving by and saw what was happening, stopped to help.

"Without hesitation, I jumped out of my car, went into gear

and basically went and grabbed the suspect to restrain him," DeRose said.

"He was a hard guy to get a hold of and keep down ... I was running on pure adrenaline at that time."

If it wasn't for DeRose's help, Novakovic said he likely would have passed out in the next 20 seconds — or worse.

“

I knew if I didn't do anything at that moment, it would have gotten a lot worse.

Eugene DeRose

"Every day police risk their lives for strangers. It's a job we chose. But on February 17, it was a stranger that risked his life for police," Novakovic said.

"My family and myself are truly thankful to Eugene."

Since the incident, Edmonton police have placed three charges against Gabriel William Dumont, 27, including obstructing, resisting and assaulting a peace officer.

Dumont also received a \$250 ticket for jaywalking.

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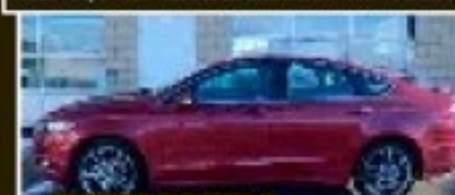
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Calgary's police diversity unit

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Team strives to build 'bridges of respect' with communities



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

What does the Diversity Unit do?

"The Calgary Police Service is a leader in fostering awareness and understanding, both within the police service and between the service and Calgary's diverse communities. We are instrumental in preserving the quality of life in our community by maintaining Calgary as a secure place in which to live.

"By building bridges of respect with Calgary's diverse communities, we ultimately improve the quality of life for citizens through social development.

"Through our belief in the community-policing model, we recognize the strength of diversity and so work to build meaningful relationships with community members and organizations. This allows CPS ... to identify problems and then work with community stakeholders to address them."



Const. Jeff Munday

Portfolio: SouthEast Asia

Length of policing career: Thirty-three years, all with the Calgary Police Service

Hometown: Vancouver but have spent 40 years in Alberta

Favourite part of job: Exposure to new cultures and sampling great food!

Most challenging part of job: Language barrier, especially with the elders or seniors from the various communities



Const. Jerry Shannon

Portfolio: South Asian

Length of policing career: I have been a member of the Calgary Police Service for 27 years.

Hometown: An area of New Brunswick ... known as the Miramichi.

Favourite part of job: To meet with different people and share with them the ways in which (we) can help them enjoy living in Calgary.

Most challenging part of job: A lot of people in ... South Asian communities, did not have positive experiences with the police in the "old" country growing up.



Const. Andy Buck

Portfolio: Sexuality, gender diversity

Length of policing career: Sixteen years in Greater Manchester, U.K., and six here in Calgary

Hometown: I proudly consider Calgary as my home town.... I spent most of my school years and early adulthood in ... New Forest, U.K.

Favourite part of job: There is nobody else in the service doing exactly what I do, and I work with such a wonderful, peace-loving community.

Most challenging part of job: I thought (it) would be, as somebody who identifies as "straight," being accepted by the LGBTQ community.



Const. Gary Woods

Portfolio: Caribbean, Latin Americas

Length of policing career: Twenty-one years

Hometown: Belfast, Northern Ireland

Favourite part of job: People.... If I leave them happier than when they met me, then I feel like I have done my job.

Most challenging part of job: Wanting to do more, but not always being able to.

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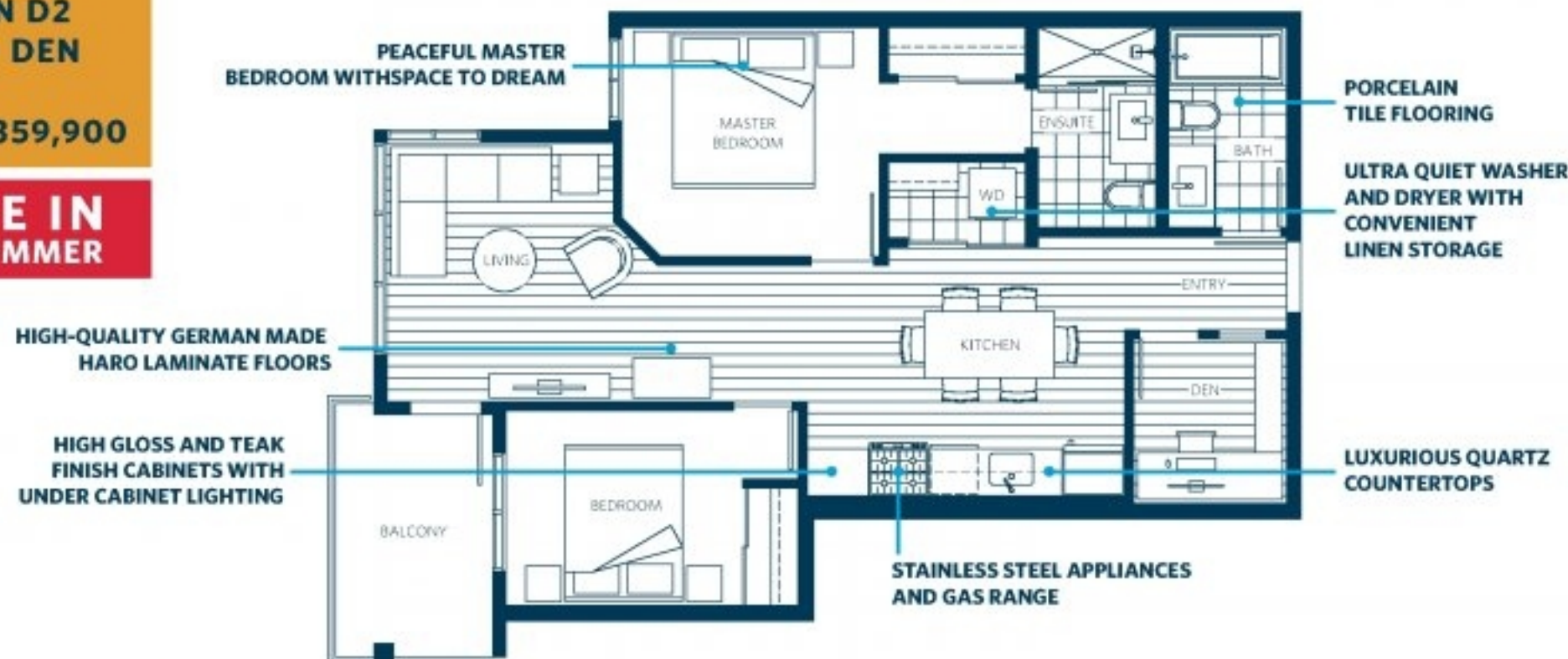
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PCs revert to nomination process



Interim PC Leader Ric McIver said the public's outcry over the candidate appointment must be listened to. METRO FILE

POLITICS

Calgary-Greenway byelection to be held March 22



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The Progressive Conservatives are backtracking on a decision to appoint a candidate for the riding of Calgary-Greenway.

On Tuesday night, the PCs appointed Prabhdeep Singh. The party was originally to hold a

nomination meeting on Saturday.

The move ruffled the feathers of Greenway candidate Jamie Lall, who took to Twitter calling the appointment undemocratic.

Along with Lall and Singh, PC candidates also included Dan Sidhu and Tushar Yadav. Parties are allowed to appoint nominees instead of going through a full nomination process.

Late Wednesday evening, interim PC leader Ric McIver said he's heard complaints about the association's decision to forgo the nomination process.

"The PCAA board of directors has insisted on this change," McIver said in a statement. "Albertans en masse are insisting on

this change — so, we're going to make the change."

McIver said the PCAA apologized to all candidates up for nomination and the volunteer board of Calgary-Greenway.

"One of the big issues from our May 5, 2015 general election loss is that the public must be respected and listened to, and that we must admit when we've made a mistake," he said. "This is a day where those lessons have come home to roost."

"To Albertans, who need us to demonstrate that we have learned from the past, we are showing it today."

Singh, who was temporarily appointed, said the change in

plans doesn't bother him.

"I'm OK with that," he said. "At the end of the day, we have to do what's best for the party."

Lall said he doesn't see the move as backtracking.

"It was the right thing to do," he said. "Shows a lot of courage on the part of our leadership."

The NDP nominated former radio host Roop Rai for Calgary-Greenway, and the Wildrose plans to hold its nomination on Friday, which was rescheduled from an original meeting date of March 5.

The byelection is set for March 22 — 92 days after Manmeet Bhullar's death. Bhullar represented the riding for the PCs until he died in a car crash in November.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

HOW TO GET RID OF KNEE PAIN ONCE AND FOR ALL... WITHOUT DRUGS, SHOTS, OR SURGERY

Now, in Calgary, AB, one doctor is helping local residents with knee pain live more active, pain-free lives

Living with knee pain can feel like a crippling experience.

Let's face it, your knees aren't as young as you used to be, and playing with the kids or grandkids isn't any easier either. Maybe your knee pain keeps you from walking short distances or playing golf like you used to.

Nothing's worse than feeling great mentally, but physically feeling held back from life because your knee hurts and the pain just won't go away!

My name is Dr. Jack Kucheran, owner of Northside Wellness Centre. Since we opened 33 years ago, I've seen hundreds of people with knee problems leave the office pain free.

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If you're suffering from these conditions, a new breakthrough in medical technology may completely eliminate your pain and help restore normal function to your knees.

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New research in a treatment called low level laser therapy, or cold laser, is having a profound effect on patients suffering with knee pain. Unlike the cutting type of laser seen

in movies and used in medical procedures, the cold laser penetrates the surface of the skin with no heating effect or damage.

Cold laser therapy has been tested for 40 years, had over 2000 papers published on it, and been shown to aid in damaged tissue regeneration, decrease inflammation, relieve pain and boost the immune system. This means that there is a good chance cold laser therapy could be your knee pain solution, allowing you to live a more active lifestyle.

Professional athletes like Lance Armstrong and team members of the New England Patriots rely upon cold laser therapy to treat their sports-related injuries. These guys use the cold laser for one reason only...

It Promotes Rapid Healing Of The Injured Tissues.

Before the FDA would clear the cold laser for human use, they wanted to see proof that it worked. This led to two landmark studies:

The first study showed that patients who had cold laser therapy had 53% better improvement than those who had a placebo. The second study showed patients who used the laser therapy had less pain and more range of motion days after treatment. If the cold laser can help these patients, it can help you too.

Although there are different types of lasers, the Calgary Flames have 8 of our type of laser systems.

Could This Non-Invasive, Natural Treatment Be The Answer To Your Knee Pain?

For 30 days only, I'm running a very special offer where you can find out if you are a candidate for cold laser therapy.

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- A complete neuromuscular examination.
- A full set of specialized x-rays to determine if arthritis is contributing to your pain.
- A thorough analysis of your exam and x-ray findings so we can start mapping out your plan to being pain free.
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Until March 31st, 2016 you can get everything I've listed here for only \$49. The normal value for this type of evaluation including x-rays is \$250, so you're saving a considerable amount by taking me up on this offer. Remember what it was like before you had knee problems... when you were pain free and could enjoy everything life had to offer. It can be that way again. Don't neglect your problem any longer — don't wait until it's too late.

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Due to the expected demand for this special offer, I urge you to call our office at once. The phone number is 403 291-0603.

Call today and we can get started with your consultation, exam and x-rays as soon as there's an opening in the schedule. Our office is called Northside Wellness Centre and you can find us near the Peter Lougheed Hospital just across the street from Value Village. Tell



A new treatment is helping patients with knee pain live a happier, more active lifestyle.

the receptionist you'd like to come in for the Knee Evaluation before March 31st.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jack Kucheran, D.C.
#16, 3434 34th Ave NE
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Don't wait and let your knee problems get worse, disabling you for life. Take me up on my offer and call today 403 291-0603.

Drop In gets campaigning

PETITION

Digital push to gather support for disputed housing plan



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

With less than a month to go before an appeal is heard, the Calgary Drop In Centre is launching a new campaign in support of Centre 4800.

The controversial plan to turn an old hotel in the Greenview Industrial Park into affordable and supported housing was turned down by city planners, but the Drop In has since gone to the Calgary Development Appeal Board.

In the run-up to the appeal hearing, The Drop In has launched a digital campaign to gather signatures on a petition and sway public support on the issue.

Debbie Newman, executive director of the Drop In, said there needs to be an educational



The Drop In wants to turn this former Hotel in Greenview Industrial Park into affordable and supported housing. The plan is going before an appeal board next month. CONTRIBUTED

campaign to let people know about the desperate need for affordable housing.

As for the cost of that campaign, which includes online advertisements, Newman said the money is coming from the

Drop In's rental income.

"People seem to think it's donors' money that's going to offset these things, but our board approves budgets," she said.

"It's not coming out of the

taxpayer or the government funding."

Ward 4 Coun. Sean Chu said the project is not right for the community. He said initially the Thorncliffe Greenview Community Association was ready

"Housing is a need for everyone no matter who you are."

Debbie Newman

to hear the Drop In's proposal, but trust was eroded over time as plans changed.

"Thorncliffe Greenview is already to the saturation point of affordable housing," said Chu. He added that in city planning, putting more than 40 units of affordable housing in one place is considered a bad idea.

Newman said the project currently has 79 units. The plans now call for each unit to have a kitchen. The original plan was for 120 single-unit rooms, but the Drop In has been trying to adapt to concerns from city planners and the community.

Newman has faith that the Development Appeal Board will allow the project when it meets on March 22.

"We've received a lot of on-line support," she said. "Housing is a need for everyone no matter who you are."

U OF ALBERTA

Instructor named chairman of board

A man who served for several years as an Edmonton city councillor and who has been an instructor at three Alberta universities has been named chairman of the board of governors at the University of Alberta.

The Alberta government says Michael Phair's appointment is for a term of up to three years and he may also be eligible for reappointment to a maximum of 10 consecutive years.

Phair was a city councillor from 1992 to 2007 and has taught at the U of A, as well as Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton and Mount Royal University in Calgary.

He is currently an adjunct professor with the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education.

Marlin Schmidt, Minister of Advanced Education, says in a release that Phair's passion for advanced learning will ensure that the university continues to respond to the evolving educational needs of the community.

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SEXUAL ASSAULT

Prison, restitution, ordered for man

A man convicted of attacking a woman who ran into the central Alberta bush to escape and was lost for nearly two weeks has been sentenced to six years in prison.

Kevin Roy Gladue, who is 38, was convicted by a jury earlier this month of aggravated sexual assault.

Court heard Gladue and the woman were in a truck that got stuck near Rocky Mountain House in July 2013.

The 27-year-old woman

testified she was sleeping and woke to find the man trying to take her pants off.

She said he hit her with an object, breaking her jaw, and she ran into the woods but became disoriented.

Gladue was given credit for 10 months of pre-trial custody, leaving him with five years and two months left to serve.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice

Kirk Sisson said the attack qualifies as a "major sexual assault" and was a "brutal, unprovoked attack on a woman who was vulnerable and alone."

The court had previously heard that the woman ran into the woods where she survived off berries and creek water for the next 12 days, all while nursing her severely broken jaw.

In her victim impact state-

ment, the woman described being "emotionally tortured" and "brutally traumatized" by the assault.

Her mother described how she was "sick with worry" while her daughter was lost. She also called Gladue's actions "inhumane."

The Crown had wanted a sentence of 6 1/2 years, while the defence had sought a term of 2 1/2 years. Sisson also ordered Gladue pay the victim nearly \$9,000 in restitution.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$9K

Near to the amount Kevin Roy Gladue was ordered to pay in restitution.

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Orin McCusker said he's found success as a young, black male actor, but his story is not typical. FRITZ TOLENTINO

Actors talk stereotypes

#CALGARYFILMSSOWHITE

Pros say there's growth in background roles, not leads



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Finding roles as a visible minority actor in Calgary is visibly difficult — unless you're willing to play a stereotypical taxi driver or drug dealer, according to local screen performer Amrit Sandhu.

"The roles are very immigrant style jobs; for example, you'll always play the Indian prince," said Sandhu, referencing his Indian heritage. "Or the taxi driver, or the cashier or something typical we see in society — not so much roles with depth."

With the Oscars coming up this weekend, the #OscarsSoWhite hashtag, which criticizes the lack of diversity in this year's nominations, has been gaining steam.

The Revenant, which is up for several Academy Awards including a best actor for Leonardo DiCaprio, was filmed in Alberta. But Sandhu's experience working in the Alberta film industry is that there are few films made with minority actors considered for lead roles.

Sandhu recently booked the lead for a film shooting in Toronto, and even that he said

was like winning the lottery.

"In Canada, how many Indian guys do you see with lead roles? It's very, very hard," he said. "People aren't telling stories about different cultures."

If there's a plus side to working in the Canadian film industry, however, it's the Sandhu said he's rarely asked to perform in an accent.

"Just because we see and Indian guy or a Chinese guy doesn't mean we should expect to hear an accent," He said. "Which I think is an important growth factor."

He believes it's because Canadians are committed to accurately representing the population on screen — just not as leads.

For actor Orin McCusker, he said he's come a long way from playing a drug dealer in It's Not My Fault and I Don't Care Anyway.

"Me being a young black male, that is the quintessential black role I was typecasted in," he said. Now, McCusker is appearing in short films with Ms. Canada and as the lead in a Hallmark Network feature — neither of which are stereotypical roles for a black male.

But McCusker admits his situation is not the standard — many black actors don't have the same opportunities he's had, especially working in Calgary.

McCusker echoed Sandhu's statement that there's growth in the industry in background and side roles for visible minorities — but fewer opportunities for leads.

Student mental health dollars sought

EDUCATION BUDGET

Provincial deficit forecast means funding up in the air



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

As students anxiously wait for news about mental health

funding, the advanced education minister admits there's still some question marks about whether they will get the much-needed dollars.

The province's mental health review, delivered Monday, made several mentions of post-secondary institutions but omitted a key point: This year the \$10.5 million in funding allocated by the PC government in 2013 runs dry, and students have

been advocating for funding reinstatement.

In his first media appearance since being appointed as advanced education minister early February, Marlin Schmidt reassured students who are now fearing they may be out of luck for any mental health money this budget.

"We're in the process of putting together our budget for the advanced education ministry and we're looking

at options for continuing that funding," said Schmidt.

"We haven't landed on anything yet."

For many ministries the budget ahead highlights problems as Finance Minister Joe Ceci announced Wednesday the province could be facing a \$10.5-billion deficit in 2017, cementing the province's downturn for some time.

Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) chair

Romy Garrido told Metro her group is lobbying for a per capita funding model that would work out to the same amount of dollars allocated back in 2013, but would give each school a fair-share of cash to spend on mental health based on their student population.

CAUS has sent a letter to Minister Sarah Hoffman, whose office has confirmed is working on a response.

Students were also given an opportunity to speak to Schmidt about their mental health funding concerns earlier this month via a conference call.

\$10.5B

The projected provincial budget deficit for 2017.



Katie Green and Daniel J. Kirk. JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

ART

Northern river journey inspiration



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

It wasn't exactly the trip Daniel J. Kirk and Katie Green were expecting.

As part of a documentary — titled *The Peel* — the duo left for the Peel River Watershed Region in the Yukon and Northwest Territories to create art, among a group of six artists. The watershed is one of the last to be touched in North America.

They spent about 21 days on the river, paddling about 500 kilometres during the late fall.

"Each day we were paddling for like four to six hours," Green said. "It was a lot."

She said many of the artists thought they'd have time to work on their projects but, it turns out, survival became most important.

"You're constantly moving down the river," Green said. "There's some morning we'd wake up there'd just be snow on the ground."

They also didn't really see other people, except themselves.

However, there was one particularly amazing encounter, Kirk said.

It was Day 17.

"We were floating and we just heard this hum from far

away," Green said. "Everyone was like, 'What is that?' It was this crazy foreign sound."

Turns out it was a giant speed boat, which, according to Green, was quite ironic given the fact they were canoeing.

It was the Vittrekwas of Tetlit Gwich'in First Nation who were on that speed boat. They were hunting for moose and decided to invite the artists into their hunting cabin for a night.

"It was really special," Green said.

Kirk said they learned a lot from the Vittrekwas and other indigenous peoples in the North.

"We learned more about their stories of living with the land in a different way, residential schools and how carrying on tradition knowledge is important," he said.

At the Lightbox Studio in Arts Commons, they've worked on various projects that stem from their experiences in the Peel region, sharing their journey and their work with the public.

+ SHOWTIME

The Peel, directed by Calder Cheverie and Anthony Wallace, premieres Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Engineered Air Theatre.

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SCENE YYC

John Leguizamo to perform at Laugh Shop on Friday, Saturday



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

John Leguizamo has never really delved into the word of comedy.

The Emmy-winning and Tony- and Golden Globe-nominated stage and screen actor normally tests his material at performing-arts spaces before showcasing it on Broadway.

But he said his latest work — titled *Latin History for Dummies* — was meant for comedy crowds.

"It's been a lot of fun," he said.

Latin History for Dummies is set to have its Canadian debut on Friday and Saturday at Hotel Blackfoot's Laugh Shop.

It's a show that deals much with a history you likely didn't learn in school.

“

You just didn't feel like history was about you.

John Leguizamo

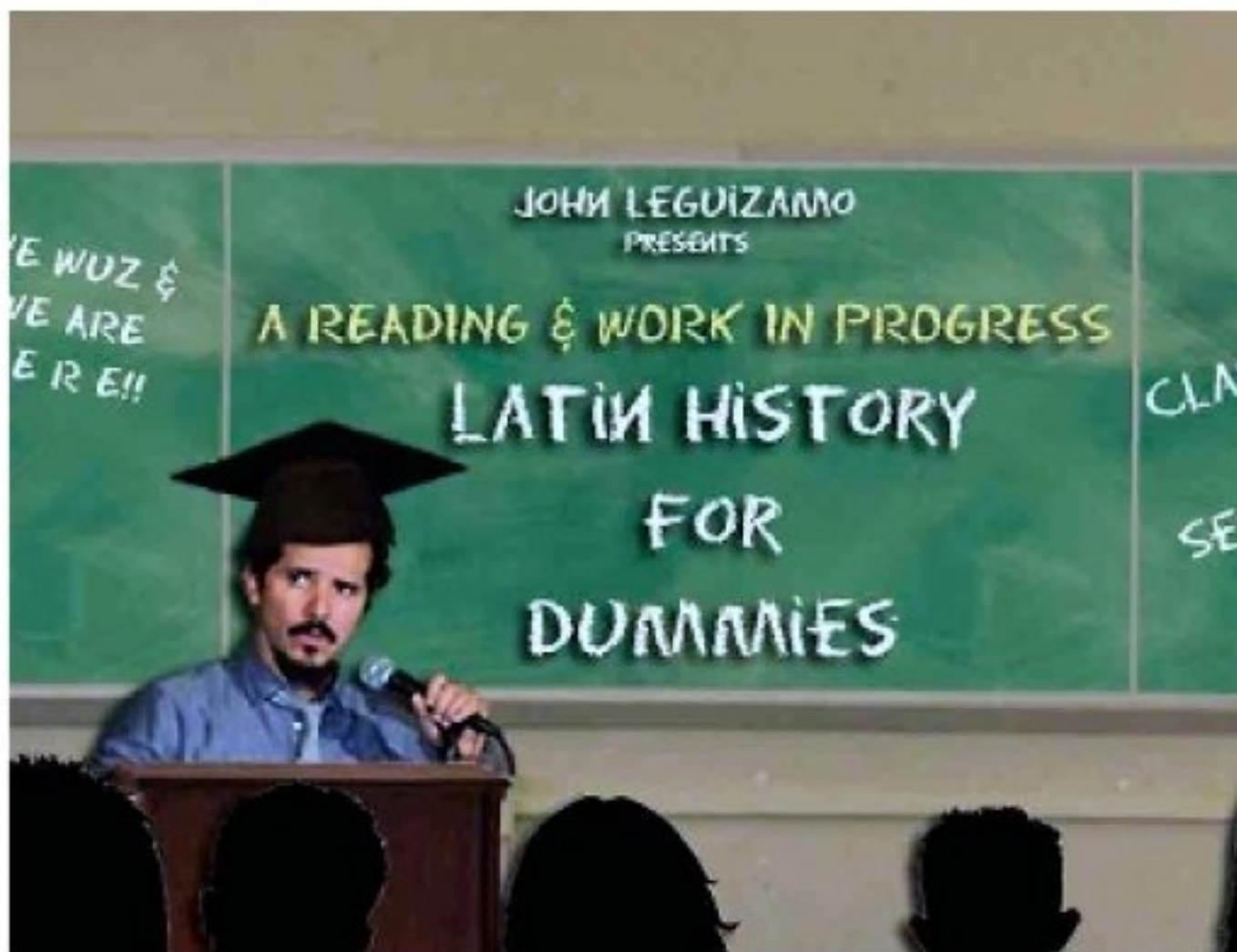
Leguizamo will recreate Aztec and Incan battles and parts of the Civil War — huge parts of history that seem to be missed, Leguizamo said.

It all began when someone mentioned one of the many fun facts about Latin American history, prompting Leguizamo to research further.

"I was so full of pride. I couldn't believe it," he said. "But I was also a little resentful. Why was this kept from me? I felt cheated in my education."

But the lack of education is worth noting; he read a report that found Latino drop-out rates in the United States were higher than the national average, he said.

"I thought, 'Oh my God, this is a crazy tragedy,'" he said. "Why is that happen-



John Leguizamo will be performing *Latin History for Dummies* in Calgary this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

ing?

"I understood from a personal point of view: you just didn't feel like history was

about you ... or there weren't any Latin heroes. You didn't have anyone you could relate to."

So after he dug deeper — finding those heroes or important historical characters — Leguizamo decided to

+ FUN FACT

■ Loretta Janeta Velazquez, a.k.a. "Lieutenant Harry Buford," said she was a man to serve as a Confederate officer and spy during the Civil War.

make show about that seemingly lost history. And one of the ways for it to resonate is through comedy, he said.

"Comedy makes history more palatable," he said.

"And if they really dig it, then they can go do the research themselves."

"But comedy makes it all accessible. It's incredible."

Though new, Leguizamo said he enjoys the heckling and booze-fuelled banter that comes with comedy shows.

"It's a lot more aggressive, and I like it," he said. "It keeps me honest."

Latin History for Dummies plays at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday at the Laugh Shop, 5940 Blackfoot Trail S.E. Tickets are \$34.95.

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Oscars in the bag

MARKETING

Women get their swagger into hands of Hollywood

Lucy Haines
For Metro | Edmonton

It's not everyday an Edmonton-area mom of three bumps into Reese Witherspoon or gets a selfie with Hercules star Kevin Sorbo.

Kathy Leskow, owner of Confetti Sweets, is headed back to tinsel town this weekend for more of where that came from.

It's all thanks to her Sherwood Park company's Confetti Cookies.

Leskow said it was a case of being in the right place at the right time. The company that organizes gift bags and pre-Oscar giveaway events discovered Confetti Sweets at Edmonton's Country Music Association party in 2014 and asked for the product come Oscar time.

"I was nervous last year. Now, it's just fun," she said. "We have to pay for our own flight and accommodation" — no ticket to the Oscars, either — "but more people know about our store and



For the second year, **Kathy Leskow**, owner of Confetti Sweets, has been invited to the pre-Oscar gifting suite. CONTRIBUTED

our products," she said.

"I just want to make sure to get the cookies ... to Hollywood in one piece. I've got some in checked luggage and some in carry-on."

That same priceless publicity is boosting Kim Ducherer's home-based jewellery business. Moxie led the Leduc county farmer to email the Grammys and the Oscars with photos of her unique, homespun earrings and necklaces — and both took the bait.

"I didn't think I'd hear back on that email. But 170 Farm Wife

Style lightning-bolt necklaces found their way into Grammy goodie bags earlier this month, and 70 pair of earrings will be part of the Everybody Wins at the Oscars gift bags for nominees," she said.

"I was invited to the gifting suite, but I can't leave the farm. It's calving time," she said.

Like Leskow, Ducherer is building on the sudden 'fame' of her Oscar connection.

"I've had donation requests, and I was just a speaker on being an entrepreneur at a tourism event. It's been wild so far."

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WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY — Book Club

Book Club is a story of adventure, the difficulties of motherhood and the power of friendship.

Jenny's book club moms think she's the best wife and mother. But when she disappears one day, the moms channel their inner detective to hunt her down. The show plays at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Lunchbox Theatre. Tickets are \$25

SATURDAY — \$100 Film Festival

Though these films aren't made on \$100, it's still quite the right budget.

Organized by the Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers, this is the longest-running film festival in Calgary, showcasing experimental movies made with celluloid film. The event will be held at the Engineered Air Theatre in Arts Commons. Visit 100dollarfilmfestival.org.

SATURDAY — Cowtown Cabaret

From Cowtown Opera, this show takes the audience on a musical journey from burlesque to opera.

There's rap opera and favourites from the shows performed at the High Performance Rodeo.

The show starts at 7:30 p.m. at Festival Hall, 1215 10th Avenue S.E. Tickets start at \$20 for students and \$38 for adults.

SUNDAY — Calgary Home and Garden Show

Find ways to improve your home at this annual expo. Exhibitors cover interiors, exteriors, cleaning products, fitness supplies, lighting and more. It has workshops, a beer garden, food trucks and complimentary design consultations. It runs 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the BMO Centre, Stampede Park. Tickers are \$13 for adults, \$7 for seniors.

JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO



Monster Truck buoyed to success after releasing its last record, *Furiosity*. CONTRIBUTED

Monster Truck roars into town

SCENE YYC

Rock act on keeping it simple and NHL sound



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The band Monster Truck is straight up rock 'n' roll — there's just no other way to describe it.

The Hamilton-based band buoyed to success after releasing its last record, *Furiosity*. Its latest album, *Sittin' Heavy*, maintains *Furiosity*'s sound, though it makes subtle adjustments for a smoother experience.

Metro spoke with guitarist Jeremy Wideman about the band's new music-making approach and hearing Monster Truck's songs during NHL games. The band plays at MacEwan Hall on Saturday at 7 p.m. Tickets are available.

There are a lot of similarities with the last record; why did you guys want to maintain that?

I think we saw a lot of positive reactions in the last record. There were a lot of things that made it fun to tour, and we saw that reflected by the fans and media. It's not just a re-

hash; we found out what really worked and found a few different ways. There's a fine line we had to walk.

You guys have seen quite a bit of success; your songs tend to play at NHL arenas. What's that been like?

We're huge hockey fans and attend a lot of games and watch a lot of games. We never really thought about it, but it's something we've decided to stick with. It's really cool. Actually, we keep that in mind when we're writing a song: something that can sound good in a hockey arena.

I read that you said there's just something cool about the title of your album. What makes it so cool?

It's something innate that reflects the band and reflects the album we were trying to write. (*Sittin' Heavy*) came before the songs. It was like our guiding light. It felt right, and we just stuck with it; it was always in the back of our mind.

Was titling the album and songs first a new approach for you?

It was for me, but it's been the nature of this band. We came up with the band name before we had the first practice.

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High anxiety: Flying while Sikh

SCREENING

Calgary Sikhs detail their experiences at airport security



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Before Jagbir Minhas heads to the airport, she makes sure she's wearing something that looks professional, usually lightly coloured.

She makes sure her turban is tied properly and that she looks approachable — but more importantly, she doesn't stick out.

She feels unconsciously nervous — she'll reflect on the anxiety later, but in the security line, she's more focused on being careful with her words and appearing well behaved.

For Minhas, her brown skin and the turban on her head means she takes a few extra small considerations when flying that many Canadians don't have to.

"I feel like, because going to the airport there's such a stigma, I have to overcompensate," she said. "If I wear just a t-shirt or don't dress properly, people are more apt to look at me and see me in a different light."

Some of her cousins opt to remove their religious clothing, wearing a simpler headscarf over their heads instead of the turban, but not her.

Still, she's aware of the advice other Sikhs have given her — always smile on the plane, always look approachable and always keep your hands visible



Jagbir Minhas feels going through airport security with her turban and skin colour makes her feel anxious, usually because of a stigma associated with travelling with her religious head covering. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Inset: Waris Ahluwalia was asked to remove his turban and then barred from boarding a flight home to New York after he refused outside of a private screening room. THE CANADIAN PRESS



— whether you're looking at your phone or reading a book. Be aware of your posture and how you sit in your seat.

Minhas is keenly aware of two recent high profile incidents involving Sikhs at the airport — actor and fashion model Waris Ahluwalia was forced to remove his turban on a New York bound flight, and Ontario comedian Jus

Reign was asked to remove his turban during a security screening in San Francisco. Jus Reign was forced to walk through the airport with his head uncovered to reach a bathroom mirror. Sikhs wear turbans to cover their hair, which they are not allowed to be cut and is considered sacred in the religion.

Adev Ahluwalia, a Calgary Sikh

who does not keep a beard or turban, tries to make sure he's always clean-shaven and presentable looking.

He said he's probably gotten more secondary security screening selections that he should and on top of his general anxiety, he has to deal with the many officials not realizing his German wife and bi-racial children are with him.

But Ahluwalia said it feels like there's a disconnect between this culture of fear within the Sikh and Muslim communities — over social media and in discussions they learn to be careful at airports, but screenings in a private room don't happen that often. He recently travelled to Vancouver unshaven, in an old sweatshirt and a grouchy mood.

"I was always ready for a fight, like, alright, give me your best shot," he said.

"But nothing happened. I actually felt better."

He said Canadian airport authorities are likely very fair, but because of stereotypes and high profile stories of racial profiling, many in the community feel anxiety over the screening process.

+ WHAT TO EXPECT

According to the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA), travellers wearing head coverings will be asked to take them off when passing through security.

If the head covering is religious, like a turban, and sets off the metal detector, and additional screening will be required.

If a physical search is required, a private search room can be requested.

If the flight is to the U.S., hands must also be presented for explosive trace detection.

"Screening officers are trained to use common sense and courtesy when screening people carrying or wearing objects of religious or cultural significance," reads to CATSA website.

Certain religious items, like the ceremonial Sikh dagger, the Kirpan, are not permitted and must be packed in checked baggage.



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#57318	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS \$75,870	NOW \$58,888	SAVINGS \$16,982	#55428	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was \$82,615	NOW \$65,488	SAVINGS \$17,127
#57321	2015 GMC 2500 Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS \$75,870	NOW \$58,888	SAVINGS \$16,982	#55436	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado DBL Lowered	Was \$62,056	NOW \$48,488	SAVINGS \$13,568
#57322	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS \$75,870	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$16,982	#52032	2015 Corvette Stingray Coupe 3LT	Was \$88,230	NOW \$74,172	SAVINGS \$14,058
#57328	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra C/C 4x4	WAS \$57,520	NOW \$44,388	SAVINGS \$13,132	#52036	2015 Corvette Stingray Coupe Z51, 3LT	Was \$85,120	NOW \$71,825	SAVINGS \$13,295
#57337	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra Double Cab 4x4	WAS \$57,520	NOW \$44,388	SAVINGS \$13,132	#52041	2015 Corvette Stingray Convert 3LT	Was \$87,490	NOW SOLD \$80	SAVINGS \$13,800
#57291	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS \$75,870	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$16,982	#57534	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra 4x4	Was \$62,925	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$14,437
#57334	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS \$87,040	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$17,052	#52119	2015 Chev Camaro LT 2LT Coupe	Was \$40,440	NOW \$29,998	SAVINGS \$10,442
#55241	2015 GMC 2500 HE Sierra C/C 4x4	WAS \$81,980	NOW \$64,998	SAVINGS \$16,992	#55455	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	Was \$63,535	NOW \$49,488	SAVINGS \$14,047
#57333	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C Denali 4x4	WAS \$87,040	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$17,052	#55459	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	Was \$63,535	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$14,047
#57290	2015 GMC 2500 HD Sierra C/C 4x4	WAS \$69,050	NOW \$51,888	SAVINGS \$17,162	#52488	2015 Chev Cruze 1LS	Was \$18,370	NOW \$11,988	SAVINGS \$6,382
#57369	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra C/C SLE 4x4	WAS \$54,955	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$12,957	#57547	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra Base R/Cab	Was \$38,210	NOW \$30,998	SAVINGS \$7,212
#55293	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS \$64,460	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$14,575	#56530	2015 Chev Canyon SLE Crew Cab	Was \$40,490	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$7,502
#52337	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 2LS Auto	WAS \$22,520	NOW \$15,988	SAVINGS \$6,532	#55732	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado L HD C/C 4x4	Was \$59,085	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$16,197
#58004	2015 Chev City Express LS	WAS \$29,410	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$6,922	#54942	2015 Chev 2500 Savana Cargo Van	Was \$39,335	NOW \$34,488	SAVINGS \$4,867
#55311	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS \$63,085	NOW \$48,888	SAVINGS \$14,197	#54943	2015 Chev 2500 Savana Cargo Van	Was \$39,335	NOW \$34,488	SAVINGS \$4,867
#56508	2015 Chev Canyon Ext/C 4x4	WAS \$40,955	NOW \$35,888	SAVINGS \$5,067	#57557	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra Reg/C 4x4	Was \$36,910	NOW \$29,998	SAVINGS \$6,912
#56513	2015 Chev Canyon Ext/C 4x4	WAS \$40,955	NOW \$35,888	SAVINGS \$5,067	#56531	2015 Chev Canyon SLE Crew Cab	Was \$36,010	NOW \$29,998	SAVINGS \$6,012
#59738	2015 GMC Acadia AWD SL1	WAS \$53,470	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$8,582	#59288	2015 Buick Verano	Was \$26,465	NOW \$20,488	SAVINGS \$5,977
#52400	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 1LT Turbo Auto	WAS \$24,205	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$7,017	#59289	2015 Buick Verano	Was \$26,085	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$6,087
#52392	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 1LT Turbo Auto	WAS \$24,205	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$7,017	#54945	2015 Chev 2500 Savana Cargo Van	Was \$39,335	NOW \$34,488	SAVINGS \$4,867
#54129	2015 Chev HD Express Cutaway	WAS \$54,771	NOW \$48,488	SAVINGS \$6,283	#59426	2015 Buick Encore AWD	Was \$34,110	NOW \$26,888	SAVINGS \$7,222
#55345	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS \$62,380	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$13,392	#59427	2015 Buick Encore AWD	Was \$32,340	NOW \$25,488	SAVINGS \$6,852
#52414	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 2LS	WAS \$21,070	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$6,382	#57577	2015 GMC 1500 Sierra DENALI C/C	Was \$73,110	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$15,122
#55352	2015 Chev 2500 HD Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS \$71,835	NOW \$55,488	SAVINGS \$16,347	#56397	2015 GMC Terrain SLE	Was \$35,915	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$7,027
#59252	2015 Verano	WAS \$26,465	NOW \$20,588	SAVINGS \$5,877	#54834	2015 Chev Trax LS	Was \$21,490	NOW \$16,688	SAVINGS \$4,802
#52415	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 1LS	WAS \$18,370	NOW \$11,998	SAVINGS \$6,372	#54835	2015 Chev Trax LS	Was \$21,490	NOW \$16,688	SAVINGS \$4,802
#52420	2015 Chev Cruze 4D 1LT Turbo Auto	WAS \$24,010	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$7,022	#56131	2015 Chev Equinox LS	Was \$28,765	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$6,377
#57482	2015 Chev 2500 HD Sierra C/C SLE 4x4	WAS \$72,385	NOW \$56,288	SAVINGS \$16,157	#56398	2015 GMC Terrain SLE2	Was \$33,689	NOW \$26,988	SAVINGS \$6,701
#55383	2015 Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS \$68,000	NOW \$53,488	SAVINGS \$14,512	#52492	2015 Chev Cruze 1LS	Was \$18,170	NOW \$11,998	SAVINGS \$6,172
#55394	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C High Country Duramax 4x4	WAS \$83,755	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$17,567	#52493	2015 Chev Cruze 1LT Turbo	Was \$23,910	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$7,022
#59261	2015 Buick Verano	WAS \$26,605	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$6,117	#55747	2015 Chev 3500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was \$80,605	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$16,317
#55399	2015 Chev 1500 C/C High Country 4x4	WAS \$66,935	NOW \$53,588	SAVINGS \$13,347	#56674	2015 GMC Yukon XL DENALI	Was \$88,355	NOW \$77,488	SAVINGS \$10,867
#55401	2015 Chev 3500 Silverado HD C/C High Country 4x4	WAS \$83,960	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$17,472	#55561	2015 Chev Tahoe LZ 4x4	Was \$74,635	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$10,747
#55403	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	WAS \$74,980	NOW \$58,488	SAVINGS \$16,492	#59337	2015 Buick Enclave 1SL AWD	Was \$57,830	NOW \$48,888	SAVINGS \$8,942
#55402	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	WAS \$59,300	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$16,412	#55754	2015 Chev 2500 Silverado HD 4x4 C/C	Was \$81,480	NOW \$64,788	SAVINGS \$16,692
#52042	2015 Corvette Stingray 3LT	Was \$84,700	NOW SOLD \$88	SAVINGS \$13,245					



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SOCIAL MEDIA

Planet Paws reaches celebrity status



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

In just six days he has reached almost 107 million people on Facebook, enjoyed 23.5 million engagements on his posts and garnered 45,039 new page likes.

He also has acquired "Facebook Mentions" status, something reserved for actors, sports stars and other well-known public figures.

So Dartmouth-based blogger

Rodney Habib was thrilled, but not surprised, to learn that he has the largest pet nutrition-related Facebook page in the world.

"On Wednesday someone tried to hack me, and Facebook messaged me and we had a live conversation," Habib recalled.

"The Facebook employee and I chatted and she said 'These guys have spent a lot of money trying to shut your page down.' Within that conversation was when I was told, 'You have the largest pet nutrition-related site



Rodney Habib and his dog Sammie. JEFF HARPER/METRO

in the world."

Last month Facebook told Habib he had to upgrade his personal page because so many people wanted to connect with him outside of his Planet Paws page.

They congratulated him on the traffic going to his personal page and said he had reached celebrity status.

Habib initially started it as a way to share information about pet health and nutrition after experiencing frustration over food-related issues with his dogs.



TORONTO ZOO POLAR BEAR BORN ON REMEMBRANCE DAY

NAMED JUNO A polar bear cub born at the Toronto Zoo on Nov. 11 last year has been given a name that's in keeping with her date of birth: Juno. The name commemorates the beach in northern France where Canadian troops landed as part of the Second World War D-Day invasion in June 1944. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds repeal provisions

CITIZENSHIP

Liberals to make good on election promise

The Liberal government has introduced new legislation to remove barriers to citizenship erected by its Conservatives predecessors while retaining and extending officials' authority to deal with fraud.

The changes, expected to be implemented this year, will provide greater flexibility for applicants trying to meet the requirements for citizenship and help immigrants become full-fledged Canadian citizens sooner, said Immigration Minister John McCallum.

The government will also fulfil a significant campaign promise by repealing the controversial provisions introduced by the Tories last May that allow authorities to take away citizenship from dual citizens for "acts against national interest."

"We are honouring all of the commitments on which we were elected," said McCallum.

"A Canadian is a Canadian is a Canadian. It's not up to the government to revoke citizenship. We want to facilitate the

process of people becoming Canadian citizens while retaining program integrity."

Despite the proposed changes, immigration officials still have the power to revoke citizenship if it was obtained by false representation or fraud, while the federal court continues to be able to remove the citizenship of those involved in organized crime, war crimes and crimes against humanities.

However, what matters most to would-be citizens would be the proposed changes to citizenship requirements:

- Repealing the intent to reside provision that raised immigrants' fear that their citizenship could be revoked if they moved outside of Canada.

- Reducing the length of time that someone must be physically present in Canada to qualify for citizenship from four out of six years to three out of five.

- Allowing time in Canada before permanent residency to count toward physical residency requirements, which would benefit refugees and those previously in Canada on study or work permits.

- Amending the age range for language and citizenship knowledge exams, allowing those under 18 or older than 54 to be exempted.

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Premiers must act: NWAC

MISSING WOMEN

Group says action needed now, not when inquiry is over

Premiers have long lobbied the federal government to act on missing and murdered indigenous women.

Now the president of the Native Women's Association of Canada says it's time for them to back up their call for action with some money of their own.

Dawn Lavell-Harvard said the roundtable on missing and murdered indigenous women taking place in Winnipeg is a chance for provinces to commit to helping vulnerable women rather than wait until a national inquiry on the issue has wrapped up.

"We want to see the provinces and the federal government coming forward with action plans and budgets to back up those action plans," she said Thursday.

"We cannot afford to wait two years for the end of the inquiry when we know many

of the things we need to have happening. We need to start taking action now."

Lavell-Harvard said provinces need to look at how their child-welfare systems, policing practices and corrections facilities affect indigenous women.

"When our women leave a First Nation looking for a better life, coming into the cities, these are the structures that are discriminating against our women," she said.

"These are the structures that have the opportunity to create safety. In the past, they have been integral in putting our women into unsafe situations."

National Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Assembly of First Nations said premiers drafting their budgets can do their part to improve education, affordable housing, detox and wellness centres.

But he said there needs to be national co-ordination on actions aimed at ending violence.

Just days after an indigenous woman was found dead in a Winnipeg home, Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger said he agrees that provinces shouldn't wait for the inquiry to do what they can. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Candles light photos of Tina Fountaine and other murdered and missing women on a memorial table at the second National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Winnipeg on Thursday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Minors a thorny issue

A special parliamentary committee has recommended that legislation governing doctor-assisted death for competent adults be expanded within three years to include "mature minors" under the age of 18.

The notion of a young person seeking help to terminate their life raises thorny questions, not the least of which is how does one define a mature minor?

The Canadian Paediatric Society opposes mature minors being included in legislation, which the federal government must draft and pass before June 6, when assisted suicide becomes legal in Canada.

However, Dr. Dawn Davies, chairwoman of CPS's bioethics committee, said the organization will not have a full position statement on the issue until it completes a survey of its members.

"What we suspect is that most pediatricians and pediatric health practitioners would not think that mature minors should be included, at least in the first iteration of the legislation."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BIRTHDAYS

Leap-year babies face myriad annoyances

It's rare for Laura Pedersen to celebrate a birthday on the day she was actually born. The only thing less common for her is hassle-free paperwork.

Her status as a leap-year baby ensures that genuine birthday festivities are only possible once every four years. That same Feb. 29 birth date also creates day-to-day hassles that are all too common.

Online application forms insist leap day doesn't exist. Official insurance forms document the wrong birthday. And no matter what administrative process she's

trying to tackle, she inevitably faces questions as to whether she was, in fact, born on leap day.

"We got married this past summer ... and when I wrote my birthday down, the commissioner asked me several times: 'You're sure that it's Feb. 29, right?'" Pedersen said.

Skepticism about a Feb. 29 birthday is widespread, according to one organization that was formed in part to combat it.

The Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies was created in 1997 not only to celebrate the unusual date, but to raise awareness of

the challenges associated with it and to advocate for those affected by such hassles.

Co-founder Peter Brouwer will celebrate his 15th leap day birthday in Vancouver this year — he'll be 60, for those who struggle with multiplication. He says inconveniences caused by corporate or technological failure to recognize the day has resulted in serious problems for decades for leapers.

Leapers have experienced everything from webpage shutdowns to halted banking transactions due to the lack of famili-

arity with the date by authorities. He even recalled a society member who was accused of using a falsified driver's licence because of his date of birth.

The society mounted a few tongue-in-cheek campaigns along with more serious efforts to have companies reappraise their efforts to accommodate leapers.

Brouwer said recent years have seen a decisive shift in leapers' favour. "I think things have really improved," he said. "I have not had a problem entering Feb. 29 anywhere since I can remember."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ LEAPERS FUN FACTS

Ever wondered why we have leap year? Here are a few facts to bring you up to speed:

Why do leap years exist?

Leap year is the reason that seasons occur at the same time each year. According to the Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies, the Earth takes 365.24 days to make a complete cycle around the sun. Every four years, therefore, the world would be a full day out of sync with the calendar.

How does it work?

According to Irv Bromberg at the University of Toronto, "the Gregorian calendar has a 400-year repeat cycle, in which every year number divisible by four (2016, for example) has a leap day appended to February, except if the year number is divisible by 100, in which case it is a leap year only if the year number is also divisible by 400." For instance, the year 2000 was a leap year, while 1900 was not. Got that?

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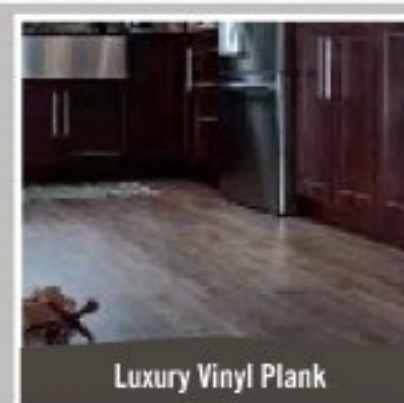


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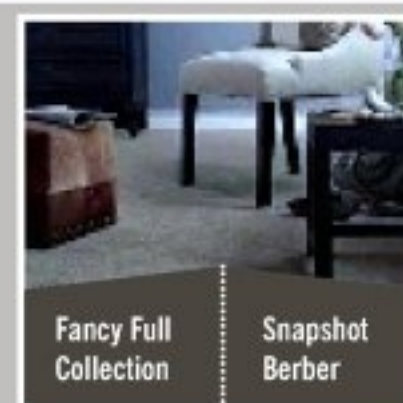


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Cruz, Rubio form tag-team

REPUBLICAN RACE

Duo bash Trump in last debate before Super Tuesday

Presidential candidates Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz barreled into Thursday's Republican debate eager to seize one last chance to slow Donald Trump's momentum before next week's Super Tuesday megaround of voting, and immediately took him on over his immigration positions and more.

In the night's first exchange, Florida Sen. Rubio accused the billionaire businessman of shifting positions on deportation, hiring people from other countries to take jobs from Americans and being fined for worker violations.

Joining in, Cruz criticized Trump for suggesting he alone had "discovered the issue

of illegal immigration."

Trump took a more personal tack against Cruz, touting his own ability to get along with others and adding: "You get along with nobody... You should be ashamed of yourself."

Both Rubio and Cruz said that Trump had to pay a \$1 million fine for illegal immigration hiring.

In the past, the two had shown little willingness to take on the former reality television star when the national spotlight shines brightest.

That changed in the ninth Republican debate of the presidential campaign.

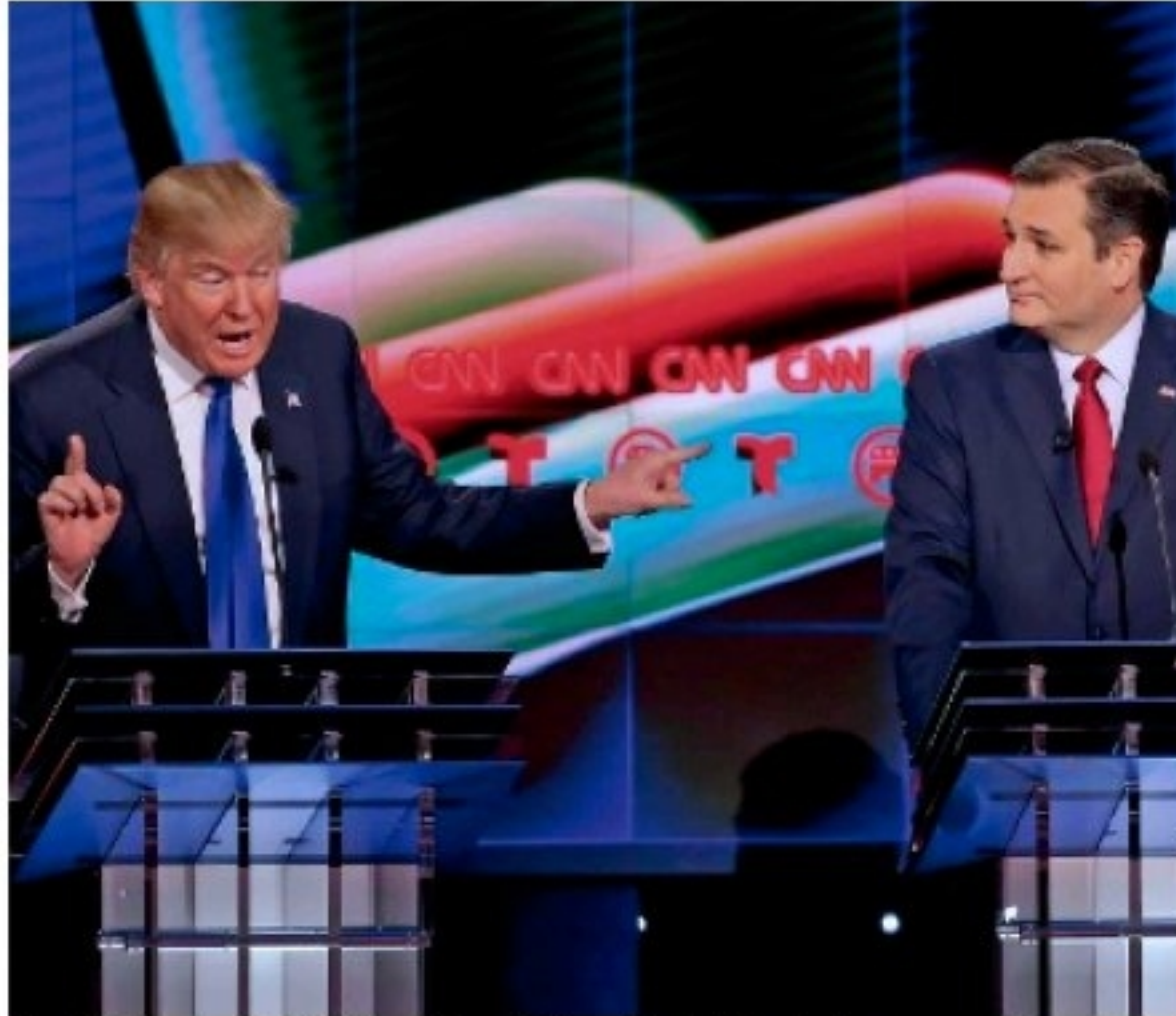
Trump may well become the inevitable Republican after the Super Tuesday votes next week in 11 states, with 595 delegates at stake.

So far, after four primary and caucus contests, Trump has 82 delegates, Cruz has 17 and Rubio has 16.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"You get along with nobody. ... You should be ashamed of yourself."

Donald Trump



Donald Trump speaks in the Republican debate as Sen. Ted Cruz looks on.

DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

SeaWorld admits to plant in animal rights group

SeaWorld acknowledged that it sent its own workers to infiltrate an animal rights group which opposed the practices of the theme park.

The development comes months after People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals accused a SeaWorld employee of trying to incite violence while posing as a fellow animal rights activist.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Most ISIL bombs made with civilian parts: Report

The Islamic State group relies on commercially available components for most of its bombs, with some parts coming from as far away as the United States and Japan, according to a report released Wednesday by a London-based arms research group.

Conflict Armament Research says most components — such as chemicals and detonators — are used for civilian purposes, such as mining.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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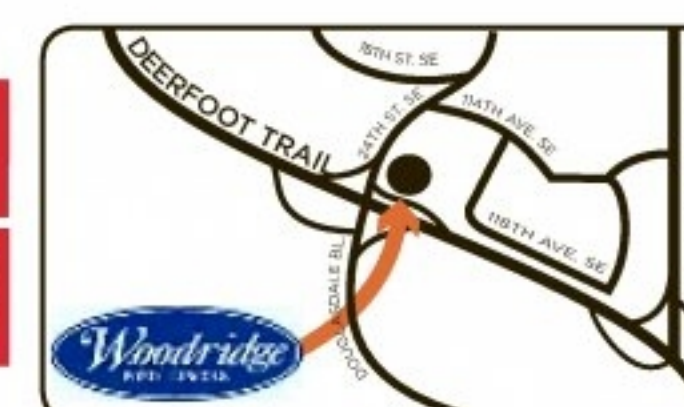


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World **metro** NEWS

FATALITIES

Mumbai declares 16 no-selfie zones

Look around in any major Indian city, and you will find someone with an arm outstretched, mobile phone in hand, smiling widely and clicking away. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi has embraced the medium, posting pictures online he's snapped with various world leaders.

But the pursuit of the most epic selfie can have lethal consequences.

India is home to the highest number of people who have died while taking photos of themselves, with 19 of the world's 49 recorded selfie-linked deaths since 2014, according to San Francisco-based data service provider Priceonomics. The statistic may in part be due to India's sheer size, with 1.25 billion citizens and one of the world's fastest-growing smartphone markets.

Alarmed by the trend, Mumbai has declared 16 no-selfie zones across the city, as authorities warn people against taking unnecessary risks.

Earlier this month, an 18-year-old college student on a class picnic lost his balance while taking a selfie atop a rock near

a dam near the central Indian city of Nashik. He fell into the water and drowned, along with a classmate who jumped in to try to save him.

Last month, an 18-year-old woman fell and drowned in the sea while taking a photo of herself at Mumbai's Bandstand Fort, a popular tourist spot.

After the woman's death last month, the city's police conducted a survey to identify such dangerous places, police official Dhananjay Kulkarni said. The city also plans to run an awareness campaign. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ PHOTO FINISH

Fines set at 1,200 rupees

In Mumbai, police have declared selfies off-limits in areas perceived as risky, such as coastline locations with no railings or barriers. Anyone venturing into off-limits areas, even if they take no photos, risks being slapped with a fine of 1,200 rupees, or about \$18. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



An Indian family takes a selfie in Mumbai's coastline. RAIQ MAQBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Court OKs razing of migrant camp

FRANCE

State to evict hundreds of refugees from site near Calais

A French court gave the state the green light Thursday to raze makeshift tents and lean-tos used by hundreds of migrants at a sprawling camp in Calais, where many dream of slipping into Britain.

Tamping down fears of a violent confrontation, France's interior minister promised to treat the migrants humanely

and not send in bulldozers to evict them.

The camp in the northern port city — known as "the jungle" — has been an embarrassing chapter in Europe's migrant crisis, and France announced this month that its densely populated southern half would be razed. The move prompted rights groups and migrant advocates to sue.

The court in Lille ruled that the makeshift shelters used by the migrants can be destroyed — but that common spaces like places of worship, schools and a library must be left standing.

Calais' prime location —

with a major ferry port, Euro-tunnel rail system and truck traffic crossing the English Channel — has put it in the crosshairs of the migrant crisis.

Officials say moving migrants out of the Calais site will be a better solution for all, since many have been languishing in poverty and hopelessness after nearby borders have been sealed by increasing security.

Officials estimate the number of migrants who will be affected at 800 to 1,000, while humanitarian organizations say over 3,000 migrants live there. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



1 A man talks on the phone in the "Jungle," a migrant and refugee camp in Calais. On Thursday, a French court gave the green light to plans to evacuate hundreds of migrants from the notorious makeshift camp. DENIS CHARLET/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

2 A child rides his bicycle in the makeshift camp for migrants. In November, the state said the number of minors without families in the camp was 326. JEROME DELAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 A Pakistani migrant selling cigarettes stands in his shop in the "Jungle." DENIS CHARLET/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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FIJI Islanders urged to bury cyclone victims

Fijians in remote places were being urged Thursday to immediately bury loved ones who died in a powerful cyclone rather than waiting for autopsies.

Government spokesman Ewan Perrin said that many remote islands and isolated communities still do not have electricity or refrigeration, and so the government is asking people to bury the dead in the interests of public health and safety.

The death toll from Cyclone

Winston remained at 42 Thursday with at least four others still missing. The cyclone tore through the Pacific Island chain last weekend with winds that reached 177 miles (285 kilometres) per hour, making it the strongest storm in Fiji's recorded history.

Perrin said authorities have now man-

aged to travel to all the islands affected by the storm but still haven't reached a handful of isolated communities.

He said people who do bury their dead are being asked to recall as many details as they can, such as the time of death and the events that preceded it.

"It would take

several days for pathologists to reach some of these sites and there's no power for refrigeration," he said.

He said 45,000 people are now staying in emergency shelters after thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed.

The government is distributing aid and satellite phones and hopes to soon move into the rebuilding phase of the recovery, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

42

The death toll from Cyclone Winston hasn't gone up in the past 24 hours but four people remain missing.



A powerful storm system swept the East Coast Wednesday, causing destruction and knocking out power to thousands of homes and businesses. JILL NANCE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tornadoes cause havoc

UNITED STATES

Storm system surges across East Coast, killing six

Tornadoes tore through towns as far north as Pennsylvania, heavy snow cancelled hundreds of flights in the Midwest and power outages left tens of thousands of residents from the Carolinas to New England in the dark as severe weather raked across a broad swath of the U.S. for a third day.

The storms Wednesday claimed at least a half-dozen lives, three of them in the tiny town of Waverly, Virginia, where a 2-year-old child and two men, ages 50 and 26, were killed during the storm, said Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller.

On Tuesday, a tornado that ripped through a recreational vehicle park in Louisiana left two people dead, and a man died of blunt-force trauma

when storms hit in Mississippi.

At least five structures were damaged in the town of approximately 2,000 and roads leading into town had to be closed because of downed trees and debris tossed by winds gusting to 60 mph, Geller said.

In Appomattox County, a tornado left an 8- to 10-mile path of destruction, injuring seven people and killing a 78-year-old man, state police said.

At least 15 structures were destroyed and 25 injuries were reported when the storm passed through Essex County and the town of Tappahannock, about 45 miles northeast of Richmond, state police said.

In Waverly, Larry D. Turner, 50, Devine J. Stringfield, 26, and 2-year-old Ivan T. Lewis died Wednesday afternoon when a twister hit Turner's mobile home in a neighbourhood sandwiched between railroad tracks and U.S. 460.

Their bodies were hurled 300 yards across the highway and into a field adjacent to a cemetery, police said.

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After a year in space, let's hit the pool



Scott Kelly is ready to return to Earth. NASA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPACE TRAVEL

Astronaut tells of to-do list as he prepares to come on down

America's space-endurance champ, Scott Kelly, returns to Earth next week after nearly a year in orbit aboard the International Space Station.

High on his to-do list when he gets back: jumping into his pool and dining at a real table. Yet he said he could hold out another year in the "harsh environment" of space if he had to.

"Yeah, I could go another 100 days. I could go another year if I had to," Kelly assured reporters Thursday in a video news conference from orbit.

"It would just depend on what I was doing and if it made sense, although I do look forward to

getting home here next week."

Going without running water has made hygiene difficult, Kelly acknowledged: "It's kind of like I've been in the woods camping for a year."

But the hardest part of all, he said, is being separated from his loved ones, a situation that will pose even more of a challenge for astronauts sent to Mars.

Kelly, whose two daughters and girlfriend are awaiting his return, took questions on Day

335 of what already is NASA's longest single spaceflight.

By the time Kelly checks out Tuesday and rides a Russian capsule to a landing in Kazakhstan, his mission will have lasted 340 days.

The world record for a single spaceflight is 438 days, set by a Russian cosmonaut in the 1990s. Even that will pale in comparison to a Mars expedition, expected to last two to three years round trip.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORTH KOREA

Loyalty campaign calls for 'miracles'

North Korea is urging its people to hunker down and work harder with a "70-day campaign of loyalty" before a major meeting of its ruling Workers' Party in May.

Red placards went up around the capital Tuesday starting the campaign. Thousands of Pyongyang residents were massed on Kim Il Sung Square on Thursday afternoon to show their commitment to the drive.

While the UN Security Council is closer to putting new sanctions on North Korea for its recent nuclear test and satellite launch, the has focused internally on a traditional socialist struggle to produce more in the workplace.

The 7th Congress of North Korea's Workers' Party in early May will be the first in 36 years and the first under leader Kim Jong Un. The new 70-day campaign means organizations and individual workers have to set objectives to show how they



Don't abandon revolutionary faith though one may die.
North Korean stamp slogan

can work harder and contribute more to the state.

Slogans written in large white letters decorate the outside of buildings, the inside of office blocks and are propped up on fields and hills in the North Korean countryside.

The State Stamp Bureau has also issued stamps "calling for working miracles in building a thriving nation."

It said the stamps bear such slogans as "Don't abandon revolutionary faith though one may die!" and "Let's make a big haul in the fighting spirit displayed by the People's Army in making a new history of big fish haul!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED STATES

Immigration and customs provided inadequate care

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has for years provided inadequate medical care at its detention facilities, leading to deaths in custody, a report found.

The ACLU, Detention Watch Network and National Immigrant Justice Center examined

reports filed by an ICE review board in charge of investigating detention deaths. It examined reports from 2010 to 2012, but advocates say the problem is getting worse.

Separately, ICE data from its website shows that there have been 155 in-custody deaths between October 2003 and Jan. 25.

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Spend to spur growth: OECD

ECONOMY

Organization says Canada must invest in job creation

The Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development has lent its voice to growing calls for more government spending in response to slowing global growth, a policy Canada's government is already planning to pursue in its first federal budget.

Amid persistently low oil prices and a slowing growth in China, the global economy urgently needs a stronger and more co-ordinated policy response to create jobs, the OECD said in its annual Going for Growth report.

Measures specific to Canada could include more support for research and development, better access to post-secondary education, an end to restrictions on foreign investment in telecom and broadcast companies, and privatizing Canada post, the agency said.

The OECD also called for greater government investment in infrastructure projects to create

jobs and boost economic growth.

"Today's exceptionally low interest rates improve governments' fiscal space, affording a unique opportunity to make investments in infrastructure that will boost demand, stoke growth and actually improve public finances," OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría said in a statement released ahead of the two-day gathering.

The report was to be released Friday in Shanghai at the start of a G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors.

As an oil producing and exporting nation, Canada has been particularly hit hard by the dramatic plunge in the global price of crude from \$100 US a barrel in June 2014 to \$30 US.

The Canadian government under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has pledged to boost infrastructure spending in its first federal budget, to be presented March 22, even though it will mean running a higher federal deficit. Both the OECD and the International Monetary Fund lowered their forecasts for global growth on persistently low prices for crude oil and concerns about weakness in China's economy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau takes part in a plenary session at the G20 Summit in Antalya, Turkey, in November. An OECD report to be released Friday at the G20 meeting in Shanghai will lend its voice to growing calls for more government spending in response to slowing global growth. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ ACTION PLAN

Move toward more competitive electricity markets. Sell Canada Post to eliminate its monopoly.

Reduce foreign investment barriers by lifting restrictions in telecommunications, airlines and broadcasting.

Reform the tax system by increasing environmental and value-added taxes and reducing regressive income-tax expenditures to further lower corporate and personal tax rates.

Enhance access to post-secondary education using income-contingent loans and needs-based grants.

Improve research and development policies by lowering the refundable small-firm Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) rate to raise grants and allocate them competitively.

BEER

Molson recreates 1908 ale

Molson Coors Canada says it's offering a limited release pale ale brewed from a 108-year-old recipe found deep in the company's archives.

Molson Coors says John H.R. Molson and Bros. 1908 Historic Pale Ale was created to celebrate its 230 years of brewing in Canada.

The company says its brewmasters "worked tirelessly" to authentically recreate the pale ale of 1908, right down to the most minute details.

"We sat down with malsters, barley and hops breeders from across the globe to identify the correct ingredients to mix with Molson's ancient ale yeast derived from the same primordial strand John Molson used in the 1700s," said brewmaster Keith Armstrong.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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HOUSING

Canadians feeling cost of the real-estate squeeze: Poll



Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Nearly half of people living in urban Canada say they're being squeezed by the cost of real estate, even in cities where prices pale in comparison to Vancouver and Toronto's sky-high markets, results of a new poll show.

Fifty-six per cent of Canadians, including those living in smaller real estate markets say housing prices in their neighbourhoods fall outside of what's "reasonable," says an Angus Reid poll.

In Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Montreal and Halifax, no fewer than 45 per cent of respondents view prices as either "high" or "unreasonably high," the poll results show. According

to January data from the Canadian Real Estate Association, the percentage of people who feel that way also roughly mirrors the actual average cost of a home in each city.

Earlier this month, the federal government introduced new mortgage rules that require homebuyers to put down larger down payments for properties over \$500,000. The changes

are intended to temper some of the country's heated real estate markets, especially targeting markets like Vancouver and Toronto where there are more properties worth \$500,000 or more, according to the government.

While it remains to be seen if that actually happens, the poll results reveal that seven per cent of Canadians say the new rules would make them less likely to

buy property this year.

The online survey of 5,867 Canadian adults who are members of the Angus Reid Forum was conducted between Feb. 2 and 10. The survey has a margin of error of 1.3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Another forum survey of 1,513 was conducted Feb. 15 and has a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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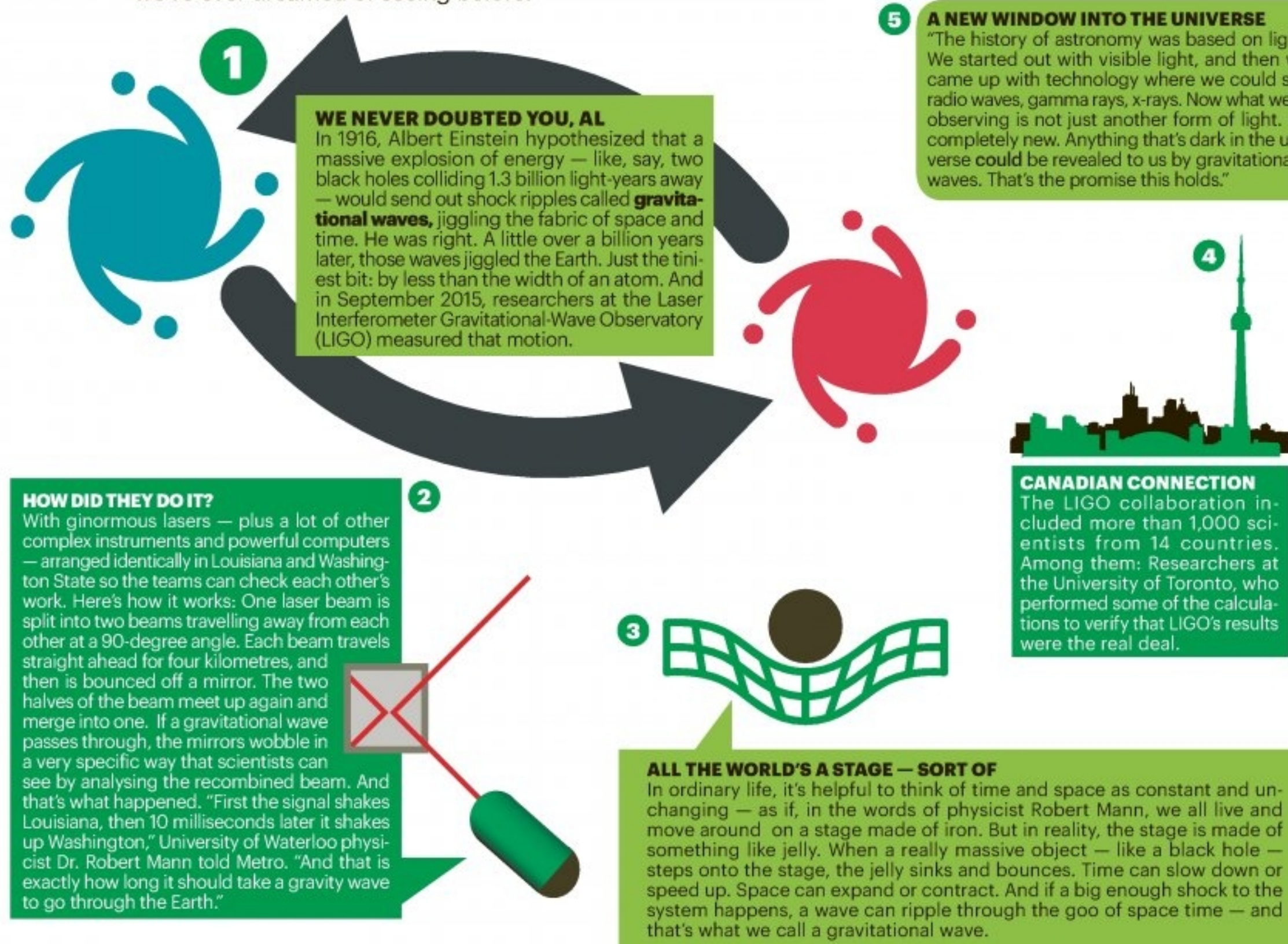
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Gravity does the wave

Nice job, Einstein. It's been a century since the super-smart physicist predicted the existence of **gravitational waves**, and three weeks since scientists announced they've directly detected them for the first time. It took us that long to stretch and warp our minds enough to understand how it is that space and time can be stretched and warped. Turns out this once-in-a-lifetime discovery is not as complicated as it seems — but way cooler: It's a potential new tool to observe more of "what's out there" than we've ever dreamed of seeing before.



Dr. Eric Poisson,
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Will talcum powder give me ovarian cancer?

QUESTION

I read this week that Johnson & Johnson had to pay \$72 million to the family of a woman who died of ovarian cancer caused by talcum powder. I'm in my 60s and have used talcum powder for half my life. I'm officially terrified!
Sincerely,
Sandy in Winnipeg

Dear Sandy,

The most important thing to know is that it's highly unlikely you'll get ovarian cancer, whether you use talc or not. About 1.3 per cent of women get ovarian cancer in their lifetimes. The greatest effect any study linking talc use to ovarian cancer showed around a 30 per cent increase in relative risk — meaning talc

users would have something like a 1.69 per cent risk of getting ovarian cancer one day.

Johnson & Johnson lost its lawsuit because people in the corporation were told about the link and did not act on it.

But the evidence for the connection is mixed. Unlike smaller, older research papers on this issue, newer studies with larger samples mostly

failed to find increased cancer rates among talc users — including women who put baby powder in a diaphragm (Ew). I suspect that the link is a hang-over from the pre-1970s days when talcum contained asbestos, which does cause cancer.

Got a burning science question? Email scene@metronews.ca

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by Jason Logan

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STYLISH STARS ARE THEY CUT OUT FOR THESE LOOKS?

Metro's Oscar fashion panel suggests three gowns ahead of Sunday's show. Dress the dolls yourself by clipping them out! **NICHOLE JANKOWSKI** METRO

Brie Larson



@JILLIANVIEIRA

Jillian Vieira is the fashion editor at The Kit, Canada's 360-degree beauty & style leader.

We've already seen Brie favour sexy cut-outs and slinky silhouettes this awards season. As a serious best actress contender, I'd love for her to have a cool-girl princess moment in a dramatic, tulle-heavy Giambattista Valli.

@DANIESQUE

Known to favour feminine silhouettes, Brie could seriously rock a Delposo dress. She's already proven that she can wear colour — and Delposo's ability to pair nearly-fluorescent hues with neutrals and pastels is unmatched.

@MICHELLEADDISONSTYLE

If I was her stylist I'd try to get her in a Giambattista Valli frock (think Rihanna at the 2015 Grammys). Since her fellow nominees are known to wear lighter colours, I'd like to see her stand out in a darker hue.

Lupita Nyong'o



@MICHELLEADDISONSTYLE

Michelle Addison is one of Vancouver's top stylists. Catch her fashion segments on CTV Morning Live.

Colour, colour and more colour. Nothing could stop this lady from being the centre of a room. She loves classic cuts and unfussy fashion. I would love to see her in yellow or gold. Oscar de la Renta or Calvin Klein would be good choices for her.

@JILLIANVIEIRA

There's very little Lupita can't pull off: flapper dresses, Grecian gowns and a one-piece column dress with cape have all earned her sartorial praise. A couture jumpsuit (à la Dior) would really solidify her Red Carpet Queen status.

@DANIESQUE

I'd love to see Lupita in Sid Neigum. While beautiful, her red carpet looks all follow similar silhouettes. Sid is known for dramatic, structured designs. Lupita could definitely pull off one of his runway-ready looks.

Priyanka Chopra



@DANIESQUE

Dani Roche is a designer, creative director, and the owner of Kastor & Pollux, a Toronto design and experiences agency.

Rodarte is known for their fairy-tale-like esthetic, innovative use of materials, and unconventional details — and one of their dreamy dresses would be a great fit for Priyanka, who typically opts for embellished gowns on the red carpet.

@MICHELLEADDISONSTYLE

While it's likely Priyanka will choose white to present, I'd like to see her in red or even dusty rose. She should stay away from black and metallics. I would love her to wear American/Indian Designer Naeem Khan or even Dior.

@JILLIANVIEIRA

Priyanka has the bold-colour-plus-body-hugging look mastered, which is why I'd like to see her graduate to new textures and fits. A draped, net-like dress (in an uber-flat-ting metallic finish like at Valentino) would do the trick.

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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN



THE OSCARS

Right after a commercial break during the Academy Awards in 1987, the camera landed on host Chevy Chase. He was picking his nose. As a 12-year-old, this was the funniest thing I'd ever seen on television. I haven't missed an Oscar ceremony since.

I love them, although not everyone does. "The next morning, we all complain about how boring it was," New York Times film critic A.O. Scott recently wrote. "The morning after that we forget it all until the next year, when the show finds new ways to disappoint us." But Mr. Scott,

The Oscars provide me with an excuse to make an elaborate meal out of snacks, fancy wine and frozen food

the disappointments are half the fun! Out of Africa outperforming both Witness and The Color Purple; Chariots of Fire upstaging On Golden Pond; Forest Gump eclipsing Pulp Fiction and The Shawshank Redemption; Birdman over Boyhood; Crash over any other movie ever made! And what about the upsets? Crowd pleasers, like Rocky, beating All the President's Men, Network and Taxi Driver in 1976, and more recently in 2010 The King's Speech reigning over True Grit, Winter's Bone and The Social Network.

This year, however, disappointment lies more with the Academy itself. For the second year in a row they've failed to nominate a minority for best acting, which will undoubtedly provide pointed material for Chris Rock, who will have his second crack at hosting the awards on Sunday night.



The Academy's president promises to fix this by reviewing their recruitment efforts. Meanwhile, a far less meaningful remedy will be provided for those long acceptance speeches by way of a ticker at the bottom of the screen listing thank-yous, saving both time and embarrassment: No longer will an actor risk marital discord — Hillary Swank in 2000, Sean Penn in 2009 (both, coincidentally,

divorced) — by forgetting to thank their spouse.

Who knows, maybe this year, the Academy will get it right: "Every once in a while — whether out of honesty, coincidence or a bizarre outbreak of good taste — those pasty old members make a choice that reflects both the state of the art and the reality of the culture," Scott said. "Mostly, though, they manage to stage an elaborate pseudo-

event and to bamboozle millions of people into paying attention. In a way, the scandal of this year's nominees confirms what too few of us in our profession are willing to admit: that the Oscars don't matter except insofar as they provide answers to future trivia questions."

Maybe — but they also provide me with an excuse to make an elaborate meal out of snacks, fancy wine and frozen food, which has been my Oscar spread for a decade now: I'm talking crostini topped with charcuterie, cheese, bruschetta-style tomatoes, guacamole, a shrimp ring, plus jalapeño poppers and mozzarella sticks, all washed down with a Nuits-Saint-Georges Burgundy.

There's not really a main course, although the calorie count easily surpasses 2,000. The point is that I can graze during the three-hour ceremony while I'm watching Twitter for fashion analysis, desperately looking for Jack Nicholson's return to the front row, tallying how many Oscars Spotlight picks up and trying to stay awake to see Leo finally get his Academy Award.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

FILM BRIEF

Gaga to sing her Oscar-nominated song at show

Lady Gaga, a survivor of sexual assault, says performing Til It Happens to You — her song about sexual abuse on campuses — at Sunday's Academy Awards will feel liberating and emancipating.

Gaga, 29, was sexually assaulted when she was 19. Til It Happens to You, written with Diane Warren and a nominee for best original song, appears in The Hunting Ground, a documentary about sexual assault on college campuses that was directed by Kirby Dick.

The pop star said earning her first Oscar nomination for a song about a serious and heavy topic "makes it extra-special."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Lady Gaga. INVISION/
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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THE OSCARS #OscarsSoWhite reflects Academy Awards' cultural disconnect

**Richard
Crouse**
For Metro Canada



A friend is boycotting the Academy Awards because his favourite film of 2015, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, didn't make the Oscar's Best Picture list.

The awards, he says, aren't relevant because they ignore genre movies and in this particular case, have snubbed the most financially successful film of the year. In fact, the old canard that the Academy doesn't honour genre movies with Best Picture nods has been shot down this year with nominations for *The Martian* and *Mad Max: Fury Road*.

The Oscar folks also gave *The Force Awakens* five nominations and in recent years *Inception*, *Avatar*, *District 9*, *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* and *Django Unchained* have all earned top nods with *Avatar* and *LOTR* taking home the gold.

Genre movies do just fine with the Academy. No need for C-3PO to cry little metal tears. To the Academy's credit, not recognizing the year's box office behemoth while giving *Room*, a modestly grossing movie, Best Picture, Actress, Directing and Adapted Screenplay nods, actually suggests the Academy will not be wowed by wheelbarrows of cash.

Perhaps the truth is that the Oscars, and awards shows in general, are only as relevant as you want them to be. Are they as important as the Republican debates? It's all just show biz, so maybe. Ultimately, unless you're an actor, a director or a shareholder in a

nominated film the Oscars are probably not extremely significant to your life. I pay attention to them as a function of my job, and I enjoy them, but this year I'm on board with my friend but for different reasons.

I'm disappointed in Oscar's failure to acknowledge diversity. For the second year in a row all 20 acting nominations went to white actors. To be clear I'm not implying the Academy is overtly racist. There are too many voters for there to be a conspiracy to keep actors of colour out of the headline categories. Have you ever gone to a restaurant with more than 10 people and tried to get everyone to agree on an appetizer for the table? It's nearly impossible. Now imagine trying to arrange collusion between 6,000 members of the Academy. Totally hopeless.

So if it's not a conspiracy why were stellar performances from Creed's Michael B. Jordan, *The Hatefule Eight's* Samuel L. Jackson, *Sicario's* Benicio Del Toro, *Beasts of No Nation's* Idris Elba or any of *Straight Outta Compton's* top line cast not nominated? I think it's a combination of studio decision makers, who tend to be white, male and older coupled with the same demographic of voters at the Academy.

It's a systemic issue being addressed by Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs' effort to mould the Academy's membership to be more in line with the population.

Until the Oscars represent the full width and breadth of the best in Hollywood, regardless of race or gender, they will continue to slide toward irrelevancy. My guess is that the most interesting part of this year's ceremony won't be who wins Best Actor but host Chris Rock's opening monologue, which, if the movie gods prevail, will address the situation in no uncertain terms. It's a speech I'm predicting will be just as entertaining and provocative as any of the nominees, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* included.

ACADEMY AWARDS AS LIGHTNING ROD

Outspoken at the Oscars

This year the #OscarsSoWhite movement made the Academy Awards a lightning rod for debate but the diversity issue is only the latest Oscars controversy.



1 Marlon Brando

In 1973 Marlon Brando made headlines when he sent Sacheen Littlefeather to refuse the Best Actor statue for his work in *The Godfather*. In a prepared statement she said Brando declined the award because of "the treatment of American Indians to-

day by the film industry and on television and in movie reruns." The speech was met with boos and later Clint Eastwood said, "I don't know if I should present this award on behalf of all the cowboys shot in John Ford westerns over the years," as he presented the Best Picture award.

2 Vanessa Redgrave

Five years later as the Jewish Defense League burned effigies of pro-Palestinian activist Vanessa Redgrave outside the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Julia actress accepted the Best Actress award inside. Drawing gasps from the audience she said she "refused to be intimidated by the threats of a small bunch of Zionist hoodlums." Later screenwriter Paddy Chayefsky said, "I'm sick and tired of people exploiting the Academy Awards for the propagation of their own personal propaganda," to rapturous applause.



3 Sarandon and Robbins

Chayefsky's scolding didn't seem to stick as actors continued to use the Oscar stage as a platform. In 1993 a trifecta of actors made the ceremony the most political ever. Best Film Editing presenters Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins criticized the government



for incarcerating 266 HIV virus-infected Haitians in Guantanamo Bay while Richard Gere commented on human rights abuses in China. Show producer Gil Cates was outraged. "Does anyone care about Richard Gere's comments about China?" he said. "It's arrogant."



REASONS TO WATCH THE FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

Can't get enough of Hollywood's award season? The Film Independent Spirit Awards is just the ticket. The star-studded annual event, now in its 31st year, honours the best achievements in independent film. The ceremony is held in a tent on Santa Monica Beach, with a dollop of Oscar pageantry and a full helping of Golden Globe irreverence. It's a chance to see the industry's top talent chill out, pat each other on the back, and potentially say something they'll regret for a full year. Here are 5 other reasons to tune in:

1. The hosts. What do Kristen Bell, Steve Coogan, John Waters and Seth Rogan have in common? They've all hosted the Spirit Awards. This year, the show boasts Kate McKinnon and Kumail Nanjiani. McKinnon is a current *Saturday Night Live* cast member, famous for her dead-on impressions (including Justin Bieber!). Her co-host, Nanjiani, is an accomplished stand-up with a growing resume of feature films, including *Sex Tape* and *Hot Tub Time Machine 2*.

2. Behind the scenes bits. Last year, Fred Armisen's hysterical parody of *Birdman* saw him bob frantically through the show's backstage on a single-take adventure that led him to find actor Miles Teller pounding a live drum kit — a reference to Teller's Spirit-nominated film *Whiplash*.

3. Sauciness in the spotlight. Nothing says "unceremonious" like the promotional-size bottles of booze on every table at this gala dinner. This show is the setting for such moments as Michael Moore famously condemning George W. Bush. It's the setting for Jared Leto, accepting the award for Best Supporting Male for *Dallas Buyers Club*, who thanked everyone from Pink Floyd to the inventor of the zipper.

4. The unexpected takes centre stage. Anything can happen. Like the time director Michel Hazanavicius arrived with a full police escort from LAX just in time to receive his Best Director award for *The Artist*.

5. A real connection to film. Sure, it's cool to see everyone from Daniel Radcliffe and Bradley Cooper to Jane Fonda and Bruce Willis breaking bread and chugging drinks together. But it's even cooler to know why they're there. The show helps filmmakers make their movies, it builds an audience for their projects and helps diversify the film industry.

Watch the exclusive Canadian broadcast of the Film Independent Spirit Awards live on Hollywood Suite, Saturday, Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. ET.

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Finding humour in the darkness

A PERFECT DAY

Del Toro tackles tricky role as an aid worker

The last time we saw Benicio Del Toro on screen he was starring in *Sicario* as a mercenary who collected a handsome paycheque while quenching his thirst for revenge against drug cartel leaders.

He was vicious and malicious, a supreme badass doing the right thing for the completely wrong reason.

That movie's dark and gritty examination of the drug-fuelled Mexico-U.S. border war stands in stark contrast to his new movie, the optimistically titled *A Perfect Day*.

"I do believe there is hope in *A Perfect Day*," he says. "I agree with you that *Sicario* is hopeless but in this one there is hope. I was finishing *A Perfect Day* when I went into *Sicario*. Perhaps that's one of the reasons *Sicario* was interesting, because it was the dark side of the coin."

Set in 1990s Balkans, Del Toro plays Mambrú, a misfit aid worker whose team (played by Tim Robbins and Olga Kurylenko among others) begin their day in the former Yugoslavia trying to remove a bloated corpse dumped in a well to contaminate the water.

The task is complicated by United Nations bureaucracy and the lack of a strong enough rope forcing the crew to navigate not only landmine-ridden roads but their own complicated relationships in search of a solution.



Benicio Del Toro plays a misfit aid worker working in the Balkans in the 1990s. CONTRIBUTED

Director Fernando León de Aranoa calls Del Toro the centerpiece of the film, adding, "Working with him means working with a creative partner."

"There are some ideas that can come from anywhere that are golden," Del Toro says on improvising on set.

"I would like to say that I wish I could recognize good ideas when they are out there whether they come from another actor or they come from myself."

"If there is a good idea I do believe that if you don't take advantage of it while you are making the film it'll be gone forever. If there is a good idea I am game to explore."

Del Toro, who is currently filming *Star Wars: Episode VIII*, says the script appealed to him because, it was about, "people trying to do good and just how complicated it can get, but with elements of humour.... It was like a riddle to solve," he says.

"Can the movie balance these two things?"

"I think it does. The darkness of the war and the job with the humour."

One point of reference was Robert Altman's black comedy *M*A*S*H* about medical personnel stationed at a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital during the Korean War.

The actor says he discussed the 1970 movie, "with the director and Tim Robbins a little

bit but the other film we talked about was *No Man's Land* by Danis Tanović. It takes place in that part of the world and deals with the comedy and the darkness. The comedy in a ridiculous way."

More importantly, he met with his character's real-life counterparts.

"I had met some aid workers and I will tell you, they all have a good sense of humour. They tell you some dark stories but

they do have a sense of humour.

"It's a way of dealing with the darkness of their experiences and the pain."

"At the end of the day when you do a movie like this you learn about how valuable these people are."

"How courageous they are. Aid workers. Doctors Without Borders. How much energy and compassion for humans they have."

RICHARD CROUSE/FOR METRO

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Imagine Dragons like you've never seen them

For this concert movie, which opens in theatres March 2, Imagine Dragons took footage from their show in Toronto. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

In making a concert movie, band looked at the Last Waltz

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



They may be one of today's hottest musical acts but before Imagine Dragons even planned to film a grandiose concert movie, they looked back at a rustic, old classic — *The Last Waltz*, a cinematic account of aged rockers' The Band's final concert from 1976.

"That's the film that let me understand the tone of all those rock n' rollers the best — seeing them in their element up on stage performing," recalls Dragons drummer Daniel Platzman from New York. "That was something that was really important to me going into this — trying to capture that feeling of the authentic concert-going experience."

Fans can soak up that authentic experience on March 2, when theatres across Canada premiere *Imagine Dragons: Smoke + Mirrors Live* — a colossal concert movie that features the Las Vegas quartet playing their biggest hits. Making the movie even more unique, the global hitmakers decided to document their show in

Canada — specifically, Toronto.

"Everytime we've come to Toronto we've been given an insane welcoming," insists the 29-year-old multi-platinum selling artist. "Even before we were able to play at the Air Canada Centre, we remember playing clubs and everyone's just had a great attitude. So when timing for the film came up, it was the obvious choice."

As the film showcases, there are 15,000 screaming fans in Toronto that adore Imagine Dragons as well. And while many acts might've settled for selling that showpiece on iTunes or other digital formats, Imagine Dragons felt it was crucial to get their show onto the big screen.

"It was entirely a cinematic

event for all of us," says Platzman. "We really wanted to bring that live experience as authentically to people in a movie theatre as we could (and) we're always trying to stay as true to the authentic show as possible."

Music fans should expect their favourite songs — from the band's hits *Radioactive* and *Demons* to an inspired take on an old 1984 classic. In fact, Imagine Dragons have covered all the bases, even the one thing all concert movies should have — a bombastic drum solo.

"I agree," Platzman laughs. "More drum solos in general would make the world a better place."

MOVIES

Two other must-see concert movies

The Last Waltz (1978):

The Band knew how to go out with a bang. After deciding to split up after years of backing up Bob Dylan and finding their own success, they enlisted legend Martin Scorsese to film their farewell concert.

Woodstock (1970):

The official film of the iconic 1960's music festival, *Woodstock* features Joe Cocker, Jimi Hendrix and all the musical greats of the era playing to a big mud field full of naked flower children. Truly, a once-in-a-lifetime concert film experience.

STEVE GOW/METRO



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TRIPLE 9

Anthony Mackie: The most famous actor you've never heard of

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Anthony Mackie has played everything from a bomb-defusing soldier in *The Hurt Locker* to a high-flying Falcon

in the *Captain America* movies. The 37-year-old actor's latest sees him as a crooked cop in the heist thriller *Triple 9*. We caught up with Mackie to investigate why he's the most famous actor you've never heard of.

Policematters

Playing a cop is familiar ground for Mackie having played 1940s gumshoes (*Gangster Squad*) and FBI agents (*Runner, Runner*). It's a role the New Orleans native clearly respects.

"Playing a police officer is really interesting to me because there's the code of the shield, it's a fraternity," said Mackie. "That was so important to me with this film — moreso than looking cool in a uniform or driving my car fast — it was showing that responsibility to that badge."

Mistaken identity

With over 40 films under his belt, Mackie is certainly recognizable — even if it's not always for his own work.

"When *The Wire* was on TV, the biggest joke was I was the most famous actor on *The Wire* who was never on *The Wire*," laughed Mackie about being confused with colleagues. "Now because of the whole *Iron Man* thing, I get Don Cheadle like once a day!"



Anthony Mackie stars in *Triple 9*, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Real fiction

In May, Mackie may be replicating civil rights icon Martin Luther King, Jr. in the HBO adaptation of hit play *All the Way* but the actor insists he's not intimidated by real-life roles.

"It's all about what the director gives you in the script because if the director writes it from a certain perspective, that character's going to be different than he was in real life," explained Mackie.

"The reality is, I want you to come out of a movie thinking that guy was real and he lived a real life."

If it ended tomorrow

"I did this football movie which I loved, and I never thought it got the attention it deserves, (called) *We Are Marshall*," admitted Mackie of the role he wants to be most remembered for.

"Call it arrogant or whatever but I was good in that movie!"

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Gods of Egypt
 Director: Alex Proyas
 Starring: Gerard Butler, Rufus Sewell

In this spectacular action-adventure inspired by the classic mythology of Egypt, the survival of mankind hangs in the balance as an unexpected mortal hero Bek (Brenton Thwaites) undertakes a thrilling journey to save the world and rescue his true love.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
 Critics: Audience:
 NOT YET REVIEWED + 92%



DRAMA
Race
 Director: Stephen Hopkins
 Starring: Stephan James, Jason Sudeikis

Race is based on the incredible true story of Jesse Owens, the legendary athletic superstar whose quest to become the greatest track and field athlete in history thrusts him onto the world stage of the 1936 Olympics, where he faces off against Adolf Hitler's vision of Aryan supremacy.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
 Critics: Audience:
 60% 82%



DRAMA
Triple 9
 Director: John Hillcoat
 Starring: Casey Affleck, Aaron Paul

In Triple 9, a crew of dirty cops is blackmailed by the Russian mob to execute a virtually impossible heist and the only way to pull it off is to manufacture a 999, police code for "officer down." Their plan is turned upside down when the unsuspecting rookie they set up to die foils the attack.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
 Critics: Audience:
 59% +94%



ART HOUSE
A Perfect Day
 Director: Fernando León de Aranoa
 Starring: Benicio Del Toro, Tim Robbins

As Sophie and her seasoned colleagues Mambu and B race against time to save the water supply for an abandoned community, they must outwit pedantic UN bureaucrats, military factions and exploitative local criminals.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
 Critics: Audience:
 65% 47%



DRAMA
Eddie the Eagle
 Director: Dexter Fletcher
 Starring: Taron Egerton, Hugh Jackman

Inspired by true events, Eddie the Eagle is a feel-good story about Michael "Eddie" Edwards (Taron Egerton), an unlikely but courageous British ski-jumper who never stopped believing in himself — even as an entire nation was counting him out.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
 Critics: Audience:
 77% +91%



DRAMA
Risen
 Director: Kevin Reynolds
 Starring: Joseph Fiennes, Tom Felton

The first 40 days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is told through the eyes of an agnostic Roman Centurion charged by Pontius Pilate to investigate rumours of a risen Jewish Messiah and locate the missing deceased body of Jesus of Nazareth in order to subdue an imminent uprising.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
 Critics: Audience:
 57% 80%



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Eddie (Taron Egerton), left, and his coach Bronson Peary (Hugh Jackman) rejoice in Eddie's triumph in *Eddie the Eagle*. CONTRIBUTED

New biopic champions last-place Olympic skier

EDDIE THE EAGLE

Tale of kitschy competitor a feel-good sports classic

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Eddie Edwards is a textbook example of a real-life folk hero. Just don't call the infamous ski jumper an underdog.

"People say it's an underdog story," explained filmmaker Dexter Fletcher while discussing his new Olympian biopic *Eddie the Eagle* recently. "But it's only an underdog story if he went I'm going to go win gold and did it. Eddie just wanted to get there."

Those who remember Eddie the Eagle's rock star rise during the 1988 Olympics in Calgary may recall how the bespectacled Brit won over spectators with a spirited, albeit below-average pair of last-place jumps. But of course, it wasn't his athleticism that inspired most fans.

"I've met people who saw him jump and they said 'we'd always go and watch him because you never knew what was going to happen'," said the 50-year-old actor-turned-director. "He was about getting to be an Olympian and that reaction that you got from the crowd at Calgary

was just about the natural exuberance of 'wow, I've achieved something I've always wanted to do!'"

Coincidentally, another quartet of kitschy competitors not only competed in the same Olympics, but also had a biopic produced about them. Although Fletcher hadn't planned on scouting other movies for motivation ahead of production, he does concede he caught *Cool Runnings*, the 1993 comedy about an unlikely bobsled team from Jamaica.

"I get why it works and I see where the similarities are and that's fine but our movie had to find our own identity, its own tone," said Fletcher. "Of course, that's what separates all these movies from the next."

After 40 years in showbiz, Fletcher should know a thing or two about making movies. A longtime London thespian that's appeared in everything from *The Elephant Man* to HBO's *Band of Brothers*, Fletcher may now enjoy extending his expertise behind the camera, but directing only came to him accidentally after shopping his first screenplay.

"I took it to some producers who just assumed that I wanted to direct it so I never told them any different," laughed Fletcher recalling his acclaimed 2011 directorial debut *Wild Bill*. "The film turned out well (so) I've been riding that wave ever since."

HOLLYWOOD'S TOP OLYMPIC FLICKS



Chariots of Fire (1981)

Perhaps more famous for its overbearing score by Vangelis, this Oscar-winning film tells the true story of two religiously-disparate runners competing to race at the 1924 Olympics in Paris.



Miracle (2004)

Kurt Russell sports a bad haircut and loud checkered pants to play real-life coach Herb Brooks who led a longshot American hockey team to gold at the Lake Placid Olympics in 1980.



Cool Runnings (1993)

Before finding gold with thrillers like *National Treasure*, filmmaker Jon Turteltaub fictionalized a family feature about the Jamaican squad that went from sitting on sunny Caribbean beaches to sliding down a snowy Olympic bobsled track in Calgary.

STEVE GOW/FOR METRO

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FILM BRIEFS**Old dog rewarded with AHA win for Old Yeller**

The nearly 60-year-old classic *Old Yeller* has been named all-time favourite family movie by the American Humane Association, which is celebrating animal actors with its annual Pawscars awards just days ahead of the human Oscars.

The AHA, which monitors and protects more than 100,000 animals working in 1,000 productions each year, traditionally adds three titles to its list of all-time favourite animal-inclusive films during the Pawscars. Besides *Old Yeller*, those included this year were 1989's *Turner and Hooch* as favourite animal buddy movie and 2003's *Seabiscuit*, favourite animal drama.

Old Yeller was one of the first movies to ever focus on the human-animal bond, AHA officials said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SIDEKICK****Vancouver stuntman plays surprise role in movie**

Vancouver actor-stuntman Rob Hayter has found himself at the centre of online buzz for playing a Deadpool character he admits he'd never heard of.

SPOILER ALERT: don't read any further if you don't want to know about Hayter's role late in the movie.

Hayter makes a brief cameo in the Marvel Comics superhero film as Bob, a mercenary who appears in a major fight sequence with antihero Deadpool, played by Ryan Reynolds. The film has surpassed \$665 million in global ticket sales and is on track to become one of the most successful R-rated movies of all-time.

Fans went into a frenzy on social media when the film was first released, proclaiming Bob to be a so-called Easter egg, which is an inside joke or hidden message slipped on screen.

That's because there's a character named Bob, Agent of Hydra



Audiences delighted when a sidekick from the Marvel comics made a cameo. THE CANADIAN PRESS

— a sidekick to Deadpool — in the Marvel comic books.

But Bob's identity in the film is more ambiguous and Hydra isn't mentioned. Writers/producers Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick recently told Cinemablend.com that was 20th Century Fox's way of avoiding copyright infringe-

ment, since it doesn't have the rights to portray Hydra agents on screen (they belong to Marvel Studios).

Hayter admits he had no idea who Bob was and was "told nothing" when he was asked by Deadpool stunt co-ordinator Robert Alonzo to play "a small role"

in the movie last summer in Vancouver.

"I didn't know who Bob from Hydra was when I walked on the set," says the 44-year-old stunt co-ordinator in a telephone interview from Vancouver. "They didn't fill me in. I was just playing Bob, a mercenary soldier,

in the movie, as far as I knew."

The Alberta native had to wear black fatigues with a balaclava. He and Reynolds had an improv session to help the writers establish dialogue between the two characters before shooting.

"Tim Miller, the director, came out and gave us some direction," says Hayter. "But basically we played it as a standard, straight-up acting scene between two friends and that's how we were told to play it."

In the scene, Deadpool knocks Bob over before recognizing him and calling out his name. Bob then pulls his balaclava down and they share some banter — before Deadpool headbutts him and knocks him out.

It wasn't until Hayter got home after work that he learned about Bob from his 13-year-old son, who's a big graphic novel fan.

Hayter says he's found the online Bob buzz to be "really engaging," and he'd love to play the character again, should he be asked. "Films like this don't come around very often, roles like this don't come around very often, projects like this don't come around very often. It's fantastic to be a part of." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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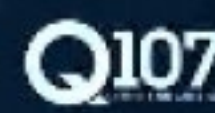
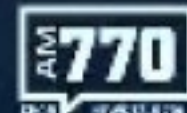
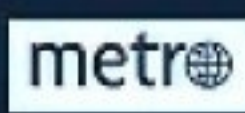
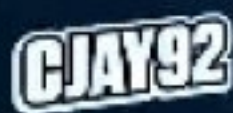
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Activist director knows Where to Invade Next

INTERVIEW

Michael Moore talks garbage, Flint, politics and the Oscars

It couldn't be a busier time for firebrand filmmaker Michael Moore

Between his new documentary *Where to Invade Next*, the U.S. presidential race and a crisis in his hometown of Flint, Mich., the outspoken activist has no shortage of causes to champion or scandals to denounce.

But on one recent afternoon, he's reached by phone at his home in New York, resting.

A recent bout with pneumonia landed him in intensive care, forcing him to cancel a slew of promotional stints on the TV talk show circuit, the Berlin Film Festival and "this fantasy of hopping the train and going across Canada" in advance of Friday's release of *Where to Invade Next*. Moore plays the role of "invader" as he visits several countries to steal ideas for improving the U.S. education, labour and justice systems.

During an interview with The Canadian Press, the Oscar-winning director sounded off on a range of topics including the U.S. primaries ("We're inside of a big clown car right now"); his disdain for mobile streaming ("Whatever you're watching on an iPhone is not a movie") and thoughts on his own mortality ("You could not be here a few minutes from now").

It didn't take long for Moore to implicate Toronto in Michigan's environmental woes, taking issue with the city's garbage ending up in Michigan landfills.

A city staffer says Toronto stopped sending its waste across the border in 2010, a contract that actually sent trash to a landfill nowhere near Flint. A

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Rubbish: Toronto vs. Michael Moore



Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Filmmaker Michael Moore took some time out of his busy schedule to trash talk Toronto on Wednesday, but it turns out his claims are mostly garbage.

The Oscar-winning director, whose new documentary *Where*



Filmmaker Michael Moore attends a rally outside city hall in Flint, Mich., accusing Gov. Rick Snyder of poisoning the city's water. JAKE MAY/THE FLINT JOURNAL VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2015 annual report filed by the Michigan government does say its largest source of imported waste comes from Canada and represents 17.1 per cent of all of the state's trash.

Moore warned that the contaminated water crisis in his hometown of Flint — where lead from corroded pipes leaked into the city's drinking water — is everybody's problem.

These stories out of Flint are stunning and heartbreaking.

No one's immune from it and everyone's responsible. Think about this.... there's truck after truck after truck, every hour of every day coming across the Blue Water Bridge in Sarnia, Ont., to dump the garbage of Toronto in landfills in and around Flint. That's not even in the discussion of what's going on. Just like so many other things aren't be-

ing discussed in how Nestle is pumping all the free, fresh water they can out of the ground (in Michigan) to bottle into what they call Ice Mountain water.

I mean, in a way, a lot of people here don't even know they're culpable.

Where To Invade Next includes stops in Italy, France, Finland and Slovenia. Why didn't you stop in Canada?

I always somehow find a way to bring Canada into my movies so I thought I would take a break. (Laughs) I knew I was going to do this movie at some point because I'd been thinking about how other countries do things for a very long time.... But in your last general election — not the one where (Justin) Trudeau (won), but the one before that — I wanted to film as one

of my examples how you do your elections compared to ours.

Are you boycotting the Oscars?

I chose not to go and I won't be watching. In part, I've got other things that I'm going to be doing. I'm helping, at least from a distance ... Ava DuVernay and Ryan Coogler and other African Americans who are coming to Flint on Sunday to do a benefit and a thing for the people in Flint. They're going to live stream it so you could watch it anywhere and that's how they've chosen to spend Oscar night, is in Flint, Michigan.... I wouldn't say so much that there are some of us boycotting the Oscars, I believe that the Oscars have boycotted our fellow African Americans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

to invade Next premieres Friday, told The Canadian Press that Torontonians are at least partially to blame for the water crisis in his hometown of Flint, Mich.

However, Toronto stopped shipping garbage across the border in 2010, after buying the Green Lane landfill near London.

"We can confirm that any

city-managed garbage or garbage received at city-run transfer stations is not going to Michigan," said Derek Angove, Toronto's director of waste management.

Even when the city did send its household trash south of the border, it went to a landfill in Sumpter Township, 130 kilometres south of Flint. Industrial and business waste

from Toronto does still flow into Michigan but goes to the Detroit area.

Flint has been grappling with water contamination since 2014, when lead from aging pipes leached into its drinking supply.

Things came to a head in January when Michigan's governor declared the city to be in a state of emergency.



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Rendering heartbreak miseries



WHAT'S A SONG I NEED TO HEAR RIGHT NOW?
"Bloody."
A into the sweet abyss.

Halifax quartet Vulva Culture "obsesses over every matter of the heart." CONTRIBUTED

SLUGLINE

Vulva Culture's sad-girl songs aching lovely for moping

Vulva Culture's patient death marches aren't nearly as drowsy as they seem.

What's the deal?

Sad girls to the power of four, Halifax quartet Vulva Culture makes knowingly dour and dirge-y music for closing the curtains, shutting off and feeling bad. Specifically, one suspects, for those who secretly enjoy closing the curtains, shutting off and feeling bad from time to time.

On last year's fine EP — the follow-up to a split 7-inch with Mauno brilliantly (and revealingly) titled *Rolling in the Creep* — the band doled out artful, long-fused miserablism that imagined David Lynch sound-

track queen Julee Cruise getting dragged down to hell by the Jesus and Mary Chain in a billowing, black cloak of twang and reverb.

Sung in weightless soprano by opera- and Doo Wop-mad frontwoman Amy Vinnedge, Vulva Culture's patient death marches aren't nearly as drowsy as they seem. They're suffused with Gothic dread as much as they are soothingly, sighingly gorgeous, and they gather intensity so subtly you don't realize you're in the thick of a roiling climax until it's happening all around you. Keep 'em handy for your next epic mope.

Sum up what you do in a few simple sentences:

"Vulva Culture obsesses over every matter of the heart. We cathartically render our staggering heartbreak miseries into sparkling, hopeful ballads. We're bawling, congested and need more sleep — Neti pot, lavender help us count sheep."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"We cathartically render our staggering heartbreak miseries into sparkling, hopeful ballads."

Vulva Culture

MUSIC BRIEFS

Craig David talks up Drake collaboration

Craig David has sparked hopes of a collaborative music project with Drake.

Speaking at the Brit Awards on February 24, the U.K. garage artist said that both he and the Canadian rapper were keen to work together, NME reports.

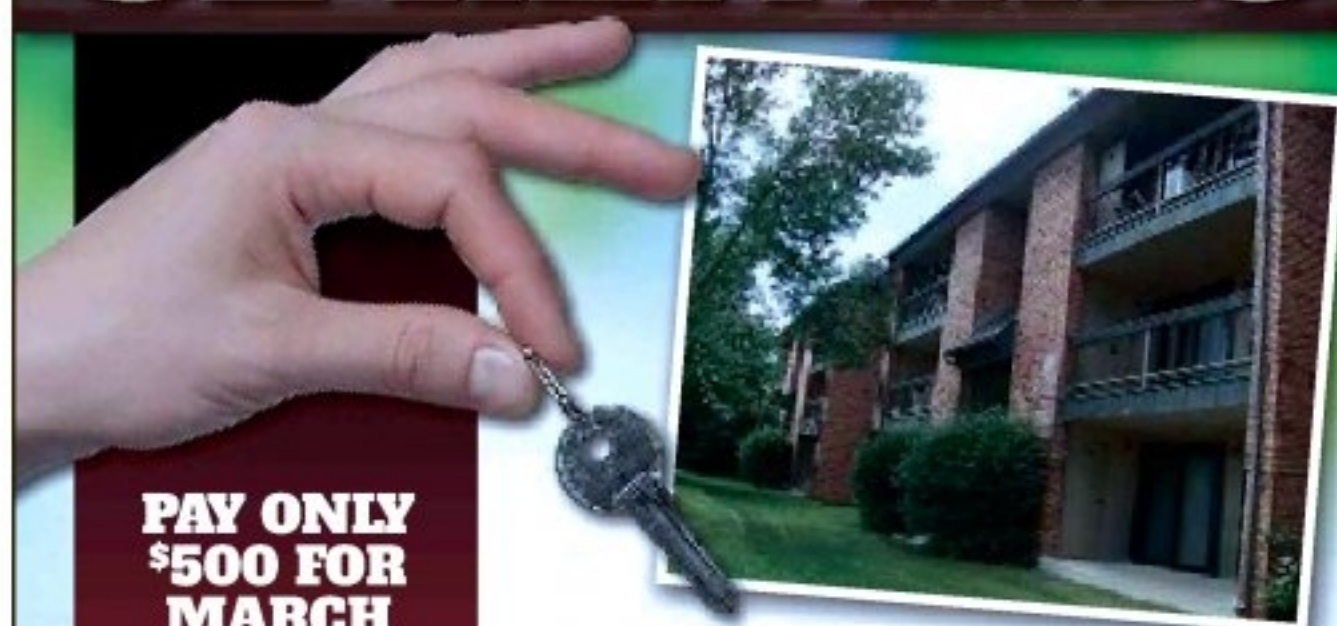
"Drake and myself, a mix tape, I know that it would be fire," the star told the publication. "I know that fans would be like 'Ooh, you did those melodies and those kind of rides.' He knows. When the time is right, it will come." AFP

Metallica to release Bataclan live album

Heavy metal giants Metallica have announced a live album recorded at the Bataclan in Paris, with proceeds going to victims of the Nov. 13 attacks at the club.

The CD — entitled, in reference to France's national motto, *Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité*, Metallica! - Live at Le Bataclan, Paris, France - June 11th, 2003 — will come out on April 16 for Record Store Day. AFP

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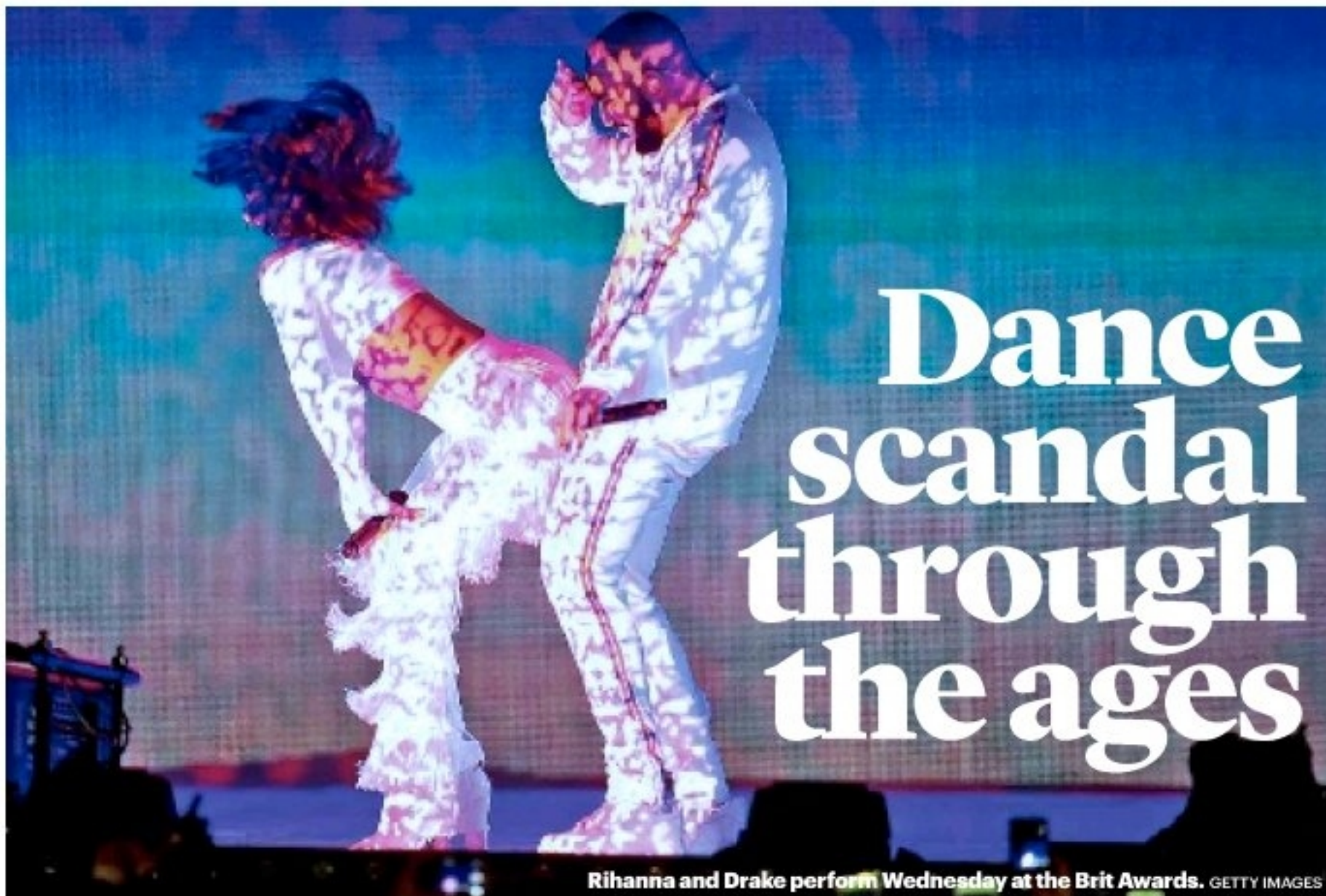
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Rihanna and Drake perform Wednesday at the Brit Awards. GETTY IMAGES

It says something about our resigned tolerance for sexy dance styles when Rihanna's video for Work seems to have stirred more controversy for of its use of patois than for the steamy moves. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



17TH CENTURY

Too close for prudish comfort

By today's standards the old-fashioned waltz looks pretty tame, so it's hard to imagine a time when the dance was considered a threat to public morals. The up-close embrace of the waltz traces its origins to 17th-century German peasant dances but, by the mid-18th century, was being picked up by the Viennese aristocracy as an alluring alternative to the oh-so-proper minuet. Even in Austria it raised a few eyebrows but nothing compared with the moral panic when the waltz hopped the English Channel. The Anglican clergy warned against the degenerate foreign dance, which soon became a ballroom standard.



1912

Sex in the City of Light

You'd think Paris, birthplace of the cancan and home to the Moulin Rouge, could take sexually charged dance in stride, but in May 1912 a scandal burst when Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes unveiled Vaslav Nijinsky's *L'Après-midi d'un faune*. Nijinsky's rendering of a mythical story about a faun ended with the beast "pleasuring himself" on a shawl dropped by a nymph.



1956

It's all about the beat

As the pulsating beat and syncopated rhythms of African-American music infiltrated white culture everything about popular dance changed. Fast forward through the bunny hug, jitterbug, Charleston and Lindy hop — all considered morally corrupting — to 1956 when a 21-year-old Elvis “The Pelvis” Presley scandalized America with his provocative Hound Dog gyrations.




PRESENT DAY

And then they twerked

South of the border, moral guardianship is always on high alert and school authorities do their best to outlaw what they view as indecent dances from proms. But with stars like Miley Cyrus popularizing twerking, it won't be going away any time soon. Its name and origins are hotly debated, but twerking has clear antecedents in West African bum-jiggling dances that are not overtly sexualized and have been around for generations. Picked up across the Atlantic and absorbed into hip-hop culture, twerking has become a flashpoint for those who believe certain dance moves are too explicit to be accepted without protest.

QUOTE

Playwright Bernard Shaw wryly described dancing as "the vertical expression of a horizontal desire legalized by music."





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No one knows the music biz like Jagger

VINYL

Rolling Stones front man talks about his new project

As Mick Jagger is driving around Latin America on tour with The Rolling Stones, he's seeing familiar advertisements promoting his latest project plastered around town.

This time it's not his music — but the HBO series *Vinyl*, which he created and executive produced.

"I'm in Argentina and I'm driving to the gig and there are big billboards on the freeway, *Vinyl*!" he says happily over the phone. "It's quite funny really."

The show about the music industry in the 1970s debuted this month and has already been renewed for a second season.

It stars Bobby Cannavale as a troubled record executive in a music industry mixed with drugs and sex; other cast members include Ray Romano, Olivia Wilde and Jagger's son, James Jagger.

"Obviously it's fictional,"

Jagger says with a laugh.

"It's a drama series and in a drama series you really want to bring out the characters, the narrative ... having said that, of course you also want to instill in people the sense of the times and you want them to buy in that. ... You have to make it believable — that's our overarching goal, whether it's actually true or not."

Jagger said filming the show — which he created with Martin Scorsese — reminded him of the 1970s when the Stones were dominating the music scene and touring around the world.

"I never worked at a recording company like that because in that time I was working at Atlantic Records with Ahmet Ertegun, and there's some of that in there, but it's a combination of a lot of things," he said.

"It's a particular crazy time and place for this particular company."

In the series, which airs at 9 p.m. EST on Sundays, Jagger's 30-year-old son plays the role of Kip Stevens, the lead singer of the punk rock band Nasty Bits.

"Well, first of all, I thought he was really good so I didn't



Mick Jagger is the creator and executive producer of the new HBO series *Vinyl*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

have to worry too much. I mean, if he was really, really not good, maybe I wouldn't have been the one to tell him," Jagger said.

"I was really pleased with his performance."

The Jagers worked together on the song *Rotten Apple*, which Nasty Bits perform in the debut episode on *Vinyl*.

"I'm happy to help him in any way when I've got time to do it," the Rock and Roll Hall

of Famer said of James Jagger.

The icon added that he didn't think of recording his own music for the series — "I wouldn't say it would never happen" — but music from others for the show has been



Actually owning something like that would drive me nuts

Mick Jagger on owning a record company

released and more will come. *Vinyl: Music from the HBO Original Series - Volume 1* was released this month and *Vinyl: Music from the HBO Original Series - Volume 1: Finale* will be released on April 15, two days before the 10-episode first season wraps. Digital EPs will be released Friday with music from the series.

Jagger, who has been busy producing TV series, films and documentaries, said he's never been interested in being a record label head like Cannavale's character in *Vinyl*.

"Everyone has their little imprint, but actually owning something like that would drive me nuts. Literally nuts," he said.

"We want to be an artist; you don't really want to be involved in too much business."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ZOOM-ZOOM



HISTORY LESSON

Series creator says Vikings is based on a true story where the Norse king's fame is eclipsed by his sons'.

Ragnar Lothbrok (played by Travis Fimmel) could be nearing the end of his time in Season 4 of Vikings. HISTORY

The Viking king's days could be numbered

VIKINGS

With history guiding, fourth season could be Ragnar's last

Has Ragnar Lothbrok finally met his match?

Four years ago, the Vikings character farmed the Norse lands alongside his wife while raising two children and preparing to raid just for the glory of it. Flash forward to today and the character has gone on to win an earldom, then a kingdom and raided the seemingly impenetrable walls of England and Paris, all while remarrying and raising several sons.

In short, there aren't many places left for the character to go but down. At least not according to the historical accounts this project showcases in spades.

The History series, which returned for a fourth season last week, now features a more tired and ragged-looking Ragnar (played by Travis Fimmel), one beaten down by the constant battles, betrayed by his brother and who now finds himself surrounded by potential enemies.

His longtime co-conspirator Floki (Gustaf Skarsgard) was placed under arrest by his own son in last week's premiere for the murder of Ragnar's most trusted adviser, and even his wife appears to be power hungry and

eager for her husband's demise.

"The show demonstrates that you may think the end of the road is achieving the crown, but that's only the beginning: worse things happen after that," creator Michael Hirst says. "Ragnar doesn't really trust anyone, which is one of the things he's learned about kingship. It's also one of the things he probably suspected was true of having power."

When Hirst set out to tell the story of Vikings, he knew he needed a strong saga that would rely on more than one character to carry it through given the amount of death and pillaging that took place during that era. When he came across the tale of Ragnar Lothbrok and his famous sons, he knew he had a match.

"I always thought I would want to move beyond Ragnar eventually, because I knew historically that the sons became more famous than he did," Hirst adds. "Bjorn (Alexander Ludwig) went to the Mediterranean and Ivar the Boneless became one of the most famous warriors ever to invade England. And so we are preparing all the time for the next generation."

It remains to be seen whether

that means this current season (which was recently extended to 20 episodes) is the one in which Hirst and Co. bid farewell to the character that has captured millions of viewers since the show's North American debut in 2013. However, given the show's penchant for killing off major characters, Ragnar's death isn't outside the realm of possibility, especially after the Valhalla sequence in last week's premiere.

"He never wanted to be king and what he finds about being king is that the burden is almost insufferable. He needs ways of alleviating it, but he also has to carry it," Hirst says. "He knows he has to confront his brother Rollo (Clive Standen) again. He wants to step side his fate; he wanted to get into Valhalla, but the gods didn't want it. Or for whatever reason he didn't die last season, so now he's trying to discover why he's still alive."

In the meantime, it seems as though Ragnar has plenty to square away with his enemies as his sons mature and learn to survive on their own. Between Bjorn fleeing into the wilderness (for some special scenes shot in Northwestern Ontario involving a bear) and Ragnar's other

sons learning to wield shields and swords, there are plenty of growing pains still to be had before that final transition. "We are dealing with the kids growing up, how they grow up and who they grow up to be," Hirst says. "There are sign posts along the way which show how they might turn out and they're worth looking out for."

New Characters

King Harald Finehair (Peter Franzen): The Scandinavian warrior comes on board as a potential threat to Ragnar during the never-ending battle for power.

Halfdan the Black (Jasper Paakkonen): Finehair's younger brother. According to Hirst, Finnish actors Franzen and Paakkonen have played brothers three times before, but this is the first time in English.

Yidu (Canadian Dianne Doan): A Chinese slave who was captured in the Red Sea. Yidu catches Ragnar's eye when his wife brings her to the village of Kattegat.

Harbord the Wanderer (Kevin Durand): Although audiences first saw Harbord during an integral episode in Season 3, this marks his mysterious return for the first time since the death of Siggy (Jessalyn Gilsig).

Vikings airs Thursdays at 10 p.m. on History. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Up for online auction: A first date

WHAT'S YOUR PRICE

Sugar-daddy site matches Generous with Attractive

He's a business man who prefers to go by the alias "Michael."

She's a Russian model and Samba dancer named Jessica, who withheld her last name.

It's their first date and Michael, like a gentleman, has paid about \$45 for it. Only, he's paid Jessica directly.

The pair met on dating "auction" site What'sYourPrice.com, where users labelled "Generous" bid on first dates with users labelled "Attractive."

The site has been criticized for blurring the line between dating and escorting. Some blogs have called it "indistinguishable" from prostitution. Its more than 7,000 Toronto users — who spend or are paid an average of \$214 on first dates, according to site data — would argue it's about companionship.

"I'm not selling myself in any way," says 25-year-old Jessica. "It's having dinner with somebody that enjoys my company. And why not get paid for it?"

Michael, 36, nods along. They've agreed to let Torstar News Service follow them on the date. For obliging, the site has promised Michael 500 credits to his profile, credits he'll use to open locked messages from "Attractive" users.

Michael, a Toronto entrepreneur working on getting a weight loss "nutraceutical" business off the ground, uses other conventional dating sites such as Match.com but hasn't had much success. He has noticed he gets a better response from women on What's Your Price, but he's not really sure why.

"For some reason it seems to interest females a bit more as op-



What's Your Price is a dating website where "generous" men buy first dates from "attractive" women. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

posed to regular dating," he says.

When others in her generation are swiping right on apps including Tinder and Bumble, Jessica's first digital dating experience is the unconventional sugar-daddy site. This date is the second she's been on using What's Your Price after a friend recommended she check it out.

So far she's made nearly \$300. A man visiting from Hawaii paid her \$220 earlier last year to join him for dinner.

Michael's offer then is relatively low. But tonight, Jessica says it was substance more than cash that brought her here. "He had a very charming profile," she says. "His offer wasn't any-

thing special. It's not all about the money."

But money is the key component of the patent-pending site. It works like this: the "Generous" user bids on a first date with an "Attractive" member. The bid payment is promised in "good faith," according to

Brittany Burrig, a rep for the site. What's Your Price does not facilitate the payment, and the "Generous" member normally pays in person after the date.

The payment is where things get controversial. Site founder Brandon Wade says the site's "no escort" policy is answer enough to its critics who say its brand of dating is no different than escorting.

"We make it extremely clear that, first of all, no sex is involved. You can't talk about sex and you shouldn't expect sex on the first date," he says.

"The world in general knows that 'escort' is really just prostitution in disguise. So in that sense, we have already set ourselves apart from that."

Nicole McCance, psychologist and relationship expert doesn't buy the "no escort" policy.

"This is a business deal. This is not dating," she says. "It just

DATE\$\$ BY CITY

Canadian cities ranked by average amount spent on a first sugar-daddy date:

1. Victoria — \$360
2. Edmonton — \$289
3. Calgary — \$265
4. Montreal — \$242
5. Vancouver — \$222
6. Toronto — \$214
7. Ottawa — \$209
8. Wingham, Ont. — \$190
9. Brampton, Ont. — \$176
10. Laval, Que. — \$167

Source: What's Your Price

BRANDON WADE'S DATING UNIVERSE

• **What's Your Price** Wade's second most popular site is an online "dating auction" where users buy and sell first dates.

• **Miss Travel** For the worldly types of sugar daddies who love to travel, "generous" men can pay "attractive" women to travel with them.

• **Seeking Arrangement** Wade's most popular sugar-

daddy service lets users get straight to the point about what they want out of the relationship. Cha-ching.

• **Perfect Arrangement** An extension of Seeking Arrangement where personal matchmakers do the work for you.

• **Seeking Millionaire** Dating in the upper tax brackets is made easy with Wade's site for "aspiring women" seeking

"successful men."

• **Open Mind-ed** This site provides a "safe and stigma-free" space for couples looking for a ménage à trois or more.

• **Pair Me Up** A real matchmaker helps set up a date for a small fee paid by the man. Women can get reimbursed up to \$100 for the date.



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5 BEST SPOTS FOR SCUBA DIVING IN CUBA

Over the past 25 years, 80 per cent of the Caribbean's reefs have either died or have severely degraded. However, the lack of economic development and restrictions placed on offshore activities in Cuba, along with a smattering of environmental policies, have saved the coral reefs around the island. Here's five of the best spots. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



1 Jardines de la Reina

The spectacular Jardines de la Reina is the premier dive destination for the Caribbean. It's enclosed in a marine protected area that's 170 kilometres long and 10 kms wide, and it has the healthiest coral reef ecosystem in the Caribbean. Only 500 scuba divers per year are permitted to dive in this undersea paradise. If you can only go on one dive trip in the Caribbean, this is it.



2 Cayo Largo

If you don't want to put any effort in getting to your dive vacation, Cayo Largo is a great option, as there are direct flights from Canada. You will land close to your hotel and the marina. The dive charters run efficiently, and it's a short sail to the dive sites along the nearby barrier reefs.



3 Bay of Pigs

If you're fascinated by Cold War history and wall diving that drops 450 metres into the abyss, then the Bay of Pigs is your place. The best dive sites are only a two-minute swim from shore, and they're located between the towns of Playa Larga and Playa Giron. Home to 17 varieties of flat coral, both hard and soft, the deeper you dive, the wider the coral get.



4 Isle of Youth

Punta Frances Marine National Park is tucked away on the remote southwestern tip of the Isle of Youth and formed around a peninsula with protected, white, sun-drenched sandy beaches. The reefs here are in good shape and the fish populations diverse.



5 Trinidad de Cuba

Southwest of Trinidad de Cuba, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along a starkly beautiful stretch of coastline, there is an area of wall diving with colourful coral and beautiful fish. The walls are punctuated with meandering canyons in parts, some of which turn into beautiful tunnels with coral-overhang where sharks can be seen.

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Tourists welcome here — sort of

PROTECTION

Some popular destinations put a cap on visits

News that Italy's Cinque Terre is set to implement a ticketing system that limits the number of tourists who visit the area is the latest reminder of the privileges and pitfalls that have come with increasingly accessible airfares and mass tourism.

Cinque Terre, located in the Liguria region of Italy, is the latest tourist destination that has been forced to put a cap on tourists in a bid to preserve the integrity of its natural surroundings in the wake of explosive visitor numbers over the last few years.

In 2011, following a torrential rainfall that battered the area, Cinque Terre received 400,000 visitors. That number rebounded to 2.5 million last year, thanks in large part to docking cruise ships which drop off hundreds of thousands of day-tripping visitors in one go.

Last week, a spokesman for the national park and UNESCO



Picturesque Cinque Terre is joining places like Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands and Yosemite National Park in looking to limit the number of tourists it takes. ISTOCK

World Heritage Site announced that as of this summer, visitors will have to buy an advance ticket online in order to gain access to the cliffside trails which connect the five fishing villages.

The aim is to reduce the number of tourists from 2.5 million a year, to 1.5 million.

Cinque Terre is the latest en-

vironmentally sensitive area to bear the brunt of mass tourism with the proliferation of low-budget airlines, behemoth ocean vessels and increasingly mobile tourists.

Here are a few other destinations that have either implemented tourist caps or are considering it.

Machu Picchu

In a bid to preserve and protect Peru's fabled and ancient, mountaintop ruins, the country has developed a new reconceptualization project that imposes time limits as a means to control crowd flow and requires visitors to hire an official guide for the trail. For years, experts warned

that the UNESCO World Heritage Site was at risk of irreversible damage and degradation from unsustainable tourist numbers. If you want to hike to the top, the government now limits access to the classic Inca Trail to 500 permits a day. That includes support staff, such as cooks, porters and guides, further reducing the number to about 200.

Antarctica

To protect one of the few, final frontiers unspoiled by human activity and tourism, The Antarctic Treaty restricts ships with more than 500 passengers from landing sites. Vessels are also restricted to no more than one landing per site, with a maximum of 100 passengers allowed on shore at a time. A ratio of one guide to 20 passengers must also be maintained while ashore.

Barcelona

Last summer, Barcelona's newly elected mayor Ada Colau made international headlines after announcing plans to curb explosive tourism numbers by imposing a freeze on the development of new hotels and tourist apartments, and creating a preventative policy pre-empting saturation problems.

Galapagos Islands

Described as a "living museum and showcase of evolution," the collection of 19 islands which make up the Galapagos Islands groaned under the pressure of unsustainable tourism numbers over the years, putting it on the United Nations' list of endangered heritage sites. Today, a conservation program has successfully helped it make a solid recovery. To visit, tourists must now be accompanied by a licensed Galapagos National Park Guide and abide by strict rules when visiting the area. Camping is also allowed in only a handful of authorized areas, and requires a permit from park officials.

Yosemite National Park

To protect one of America's most beautiful national treasures, the US National Park Service announced measures to cap visitor numbers to 18,710 a day, and 21,000 visitors a day during peak seasons back in 2014. Yosemite was the fourth most visited national park in the US in 2015, and is best known for its waterfalls, valleys, meadows, ancient sequoias, and vast wilderness.

AFP



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TRAVEL NOTES NEW YORK-PARIS, B.C. AND THE GREAT NORTH
Norwegian to fly New York to Paris nonstop with fares from \$175 U.S.

The Norway-based budget airline will start flying a nonstop Paris-New York route with introductory fares starting at \$175 US from July 29. Norwegian is also opening Paris-U.S. routes connecting the French capital with Los Angeles and Fort Lauderdale. Although Norwegian is the first carrier to offer such attractive fares between Paris and New York, it isn't the first airline to drive down prices on the popular route. **AFP**

International tourism to B.C. increasing, province says

The British Columbia government says the number of international visitors to the province is increasing and France is in the top spot on a list of seven countries and regions. Almost 360,000 more international visitors came to the province in 2015, with the total number approaching five million. The ministry is crediting its marketing strategy, along with the province's aboriginal tourism sector and more direct flights. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Quebec to spend \$36 million on northern wilderness park

The Quebec government says it will spend \$36 million to develop Parc national d'Opemican, a 252-square-kilometre tract of lakes, rivers and old pine forests in the Abitibi-Temiscamingue region along the Ontario border. The work, expected to be completed in about three years, will include the creation of a main park hub, Pointe-Opemican, on Lac Temiscamingue. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Norwegian will start flying a New York-Paris route with fares from \$175 U.S. **HANDOUT**



A deer spotted on Grouse mountain in Vancouver. **ISTOCK**



Parc national d'Opemican is getting an upgrade. **ISTOCK**

The cocktail capital of Canada?

BOOZE

Vancouver raises the bar as a libation destination

On a rainy evening inside an illuminated geodesic dome that adds sparkle to Vancouver's skyline, queues of gussied-up socialites are forming at 25 beverage stations manned by award-winning bartenders.

Patrons of the Science World fundraiser are sipping Mai Tai vapour through straws at one station and shooting glow-in-the-dark gin and tonics at another.

"That's the thing about Vancouver — the culture demands more from bartenders," says Targuin Melnyk, who runs the bar for Bambudda restaurant.

The inaugural Science of Cocktails charity, which ran in early February with proceeds providing underfunded schools free access to the landmark science centre, is a testament to Vancouver's



Bartender Trevor Kallies prepares a smoked boulevardier cocktail. **DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

spirited drinking scene. Organizers easily served up praise that Vancouver may very well be the cocktail capital of Canada.

Jennifer Ingham, vice-president of development with Science World believes the city's reputation for lame and cold nightlife is evaporating. "I think the city is becoming less 'no fun.'" The West Coast metropolis already boasts a renowned panoply of bars and restaurants clustered in distinct neighbourhoods from the swish Gastown to hipster Main Street.

But the city's cocktail resurgence proper started in the mid-2000s, as a small community keen to move beyond pulling pints and slinging highballs began crystallizing, said Trevor Kallies, president of the Canadian Professional Bartenders Association.

"No one asks me what I'm going to do when I grow up anymore. They know I'm still a bartender, they know I love what I do and they know it's working. People are getting it." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Hope for eczema sufferers

It's not easy living with eczema as thousands of Canadians can attest to, but there is hope for sufferers with one highly effective remedy on the market is making a difference.

While the market is flooded with eczema remedies, one in particular is garnering attention for its effectiveness — Jian Pai Natural Skin Healer.

Montreal-based distributor Canada Orient International Trade spokesperson M Chen says the product is not only highly effective but also completely safe as it is 100 per cent natural with an NPN issued by Health Canada.

"Jian Pai cream helps heal or reduce eczema long term and it can be used on the face without risk. This cream is suitable for everyday use and is effective for most skin problems by applying only once," she explains.

"For example, one girl suffered from serious eczema all over her body since she



ISTOCK

was very young. Different medications didn't seem to work for her. However, she got better after Jian Pai Natural Skin Care Healer was applied and her skin was fully recovered in 12 days."

Unlike a lot of products on the market that can help skin conditions, Jian Pai Natural Skin Healer doesn't contain hormones that may produce side effects in many users, Chen adds.

In order to ensure the efficacy of Jian Pai Natural Skin Healer, it is recommended to take a bath or shower with warm water prior to applying the cream. Removing scab and old skin can facilitate the penetration of skin cream.

EYE-CARE TRAILBLAZER

Leading the pack with over 50 years of quality service offering top-notch procedures and consistent innovation, Gimbel Eye Centre is an industry trailblazer when it comes to eye care.

The special milestone is a rare accomplishment and it's the result of outstanding patient care and technological advancement, according to Gimbel's Chief Operating Officer Gregg Becker.

"Our world-class procedures and innovation has propelled us forward as leaders in the provision of safe, high-quality and cost-effective eye surgery," Becker says, adding that his teams have over 500 years' experience combined.

"Our surgeons began practicing in the areas of cataract and refractive laser surgery when the field was relatively new, and are well known world-wide as innovators in surgical practice, and the procedures they pioneered are now common across the industry."

After a thorough assessment process, Gimbel takes the time and tests needed to ensure it provides the best options for each of their patients.

The centre uses all-laser technologies for refractive surgery, which provides the



ISTOCK

safest results and great vision at prices that are always competitive.

Gimbel Eye Centre has recently added a new procedure called KAMRA Inlay to help restore near vision.

"It's used to help patients reduce or eliminate their use of reading glasses. This has been done widely in other parts of Canada and the world, but is relatively new in Western Canada," Becker adds.

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Case 1: Linda, a 4 year old girl, suffered from serious eczema all over her body. Doctors couldn't find any medication for her. She got better after Jian Pai Skin Care Cream was applied only once and her skin was fully recovered in 12 days. There were only two recurrences, and everything was cleared up within two days.

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Tighten your skin for summer

Spring is just around the corner and it's the perfect time to get ready for the shorts and skirts season.

Calgary's Hair Restoration Services (HRS) is the leading expert in skin tightening, laser services and hair loss services and they equip the latest in technology and services, according to owner Arlene Forster.

"We believe in rejuvenating your hair, body and skin and with the warmer weather here it's time to treat yourself to some treatments, she says, adding they offer free consultations.

"We have the latest technology including the Body Fx, which is a radio frequency machine that reduces cellulite and tightens skin at the same time as well as laser hair removal and the wrinkle reducing machine, Fractora."

HRS also specializes in hair loss treatments for both men and women. While 80 per cent of HRS clients are men, women actually suffer from hair loss, too.



ISTOCK

"While there are many treatments that can help alleviate or rectify hair loss - including new cutting edge men's hair replacement options - hair replacement remains one of the best options. Hair replacement is a non-surgical and natural looking way to have a full head of hair within hours," Forster adds.

Forster is currently promoting the latest advancements in men's hair replacement, with state-of-the-art hair options including Ultra-Thin cuti one and two, which is affordable and appears completely natural.

HRS has won the Consumer Choice Award for 12 years in a row, including 2016.

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"Vitality Tap was founded with the vision of disrupting the myth that a healthy diet has to sacrifice taste and indulgence," Samnani says.

"Many people in North America are deficient in the important vitamins, minerals and enzymes that are known to improve organ health, brain function and immunity. Much of the challenges faced by society with regards to health and wellness are related to fast-paced and busy lifestyles, which have resulted in a reliance on fast food and overly indulgent restaurant options."

Vitality Tap strives to be a destination



CONTRIBUTED

where taste, quality and nutrition are never sacrificed, while conveniently fitting into a busy lifestyle, Samnani adds.

"Our food is artisanally hand-crafted, and our assortment goes way beyond being a 'juice bar', with a wide array of different meal options, from Acai Bowls, to Grain Bowls to Smoothies to Avocado Breakfast burritos."

Vitality Tap is open from Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To learn more please visit vitalitytap.com.



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CUSA has programs for all skill levels

The Calgary United Soccer Association (CUSA) is a recognized industry leader in the delivery of high-quality league programs, annual tournaments and special events for adult soccer. In partnership with members, they strive to ensure that players experience the best organization, development, support and accessibility in the sport of soccer.

CUSA is a member of Alberta Soccer and is sanctioned to deliver adult soccer within Calgary and area. Programs are offered year round with indoor and outdoor league play provided to more than 315 teams and its 9,000+ members each season.

A complete range of adult soccer programs are offered under one umbrella. Competitions range from the elite level team challenging for a national championship to those suitable for the lifelong participants in the Over 55 Division. There are programs for men, women and coed teams.

The roots of diversity within CUSA ex-

tend far beyond their organization. Soccer is the most celebrated game in the world, and for generations, Calgary's economic success has attracted new families from all corners of the globe. The organization doesn't need to promote diversity, merely embrace it. They continue to actively embrace diversity through inclusive policies and practices that encourage participation in soccer for everyone in this city.

Programs provide opportunities for players to develop friendships on and off the field that have lasted for decades. Individuals with different backgrounds, languages and customs become equals on the field, their athletic ability being the common bond. Participation on a team has assisted players find new employment and education opportunities. Many members also become referees as a source of additional income.

CUSA continues to expand the number of playing opportunities and competitions



CONTRIBUTED

offered to players in addition to league play, including the Black Cup which was first awarded in 1914.

Calgary's Nations Cup is offered semi-annually and provides a unique opportunity for players to represent their country of

heritage. It creates an exciting atmosphere uniting communities and sport together. Indoor action commences March 29 with the Outdoor tournament July 29 - 31.

For more information, call 403-270-0363, or visit cusa.ab.ca.



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Bahrain's Sheikh Salman is considered the favourite amongst five candidates on the ballot for Friday's election for the FIFA presidency

Alberta's Carey clinches playoff berth with ease

CURLING

Skip also helps province make playoff game

Alberta's Chelsea Carey hopes her curling team regained their early-tournament form in time for playoffs at the Canadian women's curling championship. The host province not only clinched a playoff berth Thursday at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, but Alberta also earned a spot in the playoff game between the top two seeds.

"Our first goal obviously is to make the playoffs," Carey said.

"The second goal is to be in the one-two game and give yourself that extra life. Mostly today we just wanted to come out and play better. We've been struggling a little bit."

Alberta downed Nova Scotia's Jill Brothers 8-2 to get to a record of 8-2. The Calgary team was guaranteed a top-two finish in the preliminary round with one more game to play Thursday night against Saskatchewan.

The round robin concludes Friday morning with the top four teams advancing to the Page playoff. Ties for fourth are solved by tiebreaker games.

The teams finishing first and second meet in Friday night's playoff game with the winner advancing directly to Sunday's final. The loser drops to Saturday's semifinal to face the winner of an earlier the playoff between the third and fourth seeds.

Carey, third Amy Nixon, second Jocelyn Peterman and lead Laine Peters out of the Glencoe Club opened the Tournament of Hearts a torrid 6-0 before losing two of three.

"It's been a bit of a weird one," the skip said. "We started out really well and then we kind of struggled through the middle part and then picked it up yesterday and even more again this morning."

"We feel we're kind of back in the form we had at the start of the week, which is what we wanted to see."

Defending champion Jennifer Jones downed Kerri Einarson 8-4 in a Manitoba duel to get to 7-2 with two games to play. Northern Ontario's Krista McCarville bounced back from a double-loss day with a pair of victories Thursday to improve to 7-3.

"We needed that because we're getting closer and we need to be picking up our game and I think we have today," McCarville said. The Thunder Bay team finishes up against Ontario's Jenn



Chelsea Carey is through to the Scotties playoffs after Thursday's win over Nova Scotia in Grande Prairie. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hanna on Friday morning.

"Actually Jenn Hanna beat me in the provincial final in 2005, so it would be good to play her again," McCarville said. "Haven't played her awhile. I've played her in a couple of provincials after that. That's the big game that

sticks out in my head always."

Teams still in the playoff hunt at four losses were Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan's Jolene Campbell. Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island's Suzanne Birt at five losses needed other teams to lose to get into tie-

breakers. Quebec's Marie-France Larouche lost both games Thursday to fall to 4-6. Stacie Curtis of Newfoundland and Labrador was 3-7. B.C.'s Karla Thompson and New Brunswick's Sylvie Robichaud were tied at 2-8.

This year's champion represents Canada at the women's world championship March 19-27 in Swift Current, Sask., and wears the Maple Leaf at next year's Tournament of Hearts in St. Catharines, Ont.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We feel we're kind of back in the form we had at the start of the week, which is what we wanted to see. Alberta skip Chelsea Carey

NHL IN BRIEF

Ladd traded to Blackhawks

Winnipeg Jets captain Andrew Ladd was traded to the Chicago Blackhawks on Thursday in a multi-player deal. Forward Matt Fraser and defenceman Jay Harrison are also being sent to Chicago.

Both will report to the American Hockey League's Rockford IceHogs. Winnipeg gets forward Marko Dano, the Blackhawks' first-round pick in the 2016 NHL draft and a conditional pick in 2018. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs' wingers Lupul, van Riemsdyk out for season

Toronto Maple Leafs wingers James van Riemsdyk and Joffrey Lupul are both done for the season.

The team confirmed early Thursday evening that neither the 26-year-old van Riemsdyk nor the 32-year-old Lupul will play again this season. Van Riemsdyk broke his left foot in early January and was expected to miss 6-8 weeks. Lupul, meanwhile, continues to be hampered by various injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bellemare goal gives Flyers edge over Wild

Pierre-Edouard Bellemare scored the go-ahead goal to help the Philadelphia Flyers open a six-game homestand with a 3-2 win over the Minnesota Wild on Thursday.

Mark Streit and Sam Gagner also had goals for Philadelphia, which won for just the fourth time in 11 games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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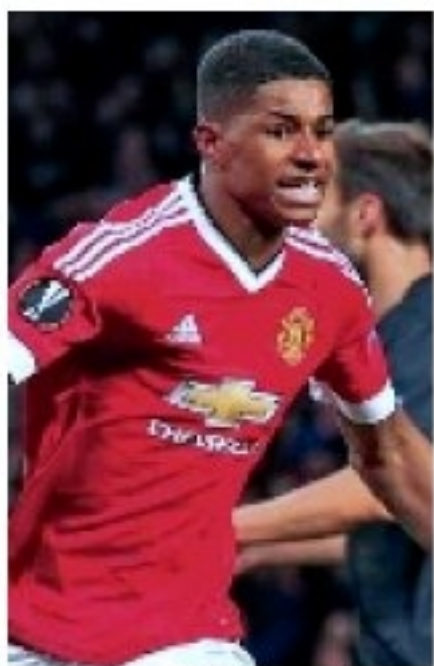
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EUROPA LEAGUE

Man United teen wows Old Trafford



Marcus Rashford scored twice in his pro debut.

GETTY IMAGES

It took an 18-year-old local academy graduate making his professional debut as a late injury replacement to spare Manchester United from potential humiliation in the Europa League on Thursday.

Many inside Old Trafford will have known little, if anything, about Marcus Rashford when the striker was called up against FC Midtjylland on Thursday after Anthony Martial hurt his right hamstring in the warmup.

By the end of United's 5-1 win, which sealed a 6-3 victory on aggregate and a place in the last 16, the fans were singing the two-goal teenager's name.

Rashford came to the rescue after United fell behind in the 27th minute to the little-known

THURSDAY In England



Danish team, which won the first leg 2-1 and was threatening an even bigger shock by pushing into a two-goal aggregate lead.

After United equalized via an own goal in the 32nd, Rashford produced clinical finishes after an hour to put the English giants ahead on aggregate and become their youngest ever scorer in European soccer. Ander Herrera and Memphis Depay added late goals, ensuring the final score matched United's

complete dominance.

The night, though, belonged to Rashford.

"He made a great performance," said United manager Louis van Gaal, who insisted he had no qualms in starting Rashford despite the size of the game and the youngster's inexperience.

Rashford hadn't started a game above under-19 level for United. His most recent goal was for United Under-18s in mid-February, which helped lift them off the bottom of their youth league. He started out at the same local junior club — Fletcher Moss — as former United players Danny Welbeck, Wes Brown and Ravel Morrison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Josh Donaldson crushed 41 home runs last season.

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4. 160 Acres - 5;1;21;18;NW
5. 156 Acres - 5;1;21;18;SE
6. 160 Acres - 5;1;21;17;NW
7. 160 Acres - 5;1;21;17;NE
8. 155.70 Acres - 5;1;21;7;NE
9. 128.69 Acres - 5;1;21;7;NW
10. 155.50 Acres - 5;1;21;7;SE
11. 160 Acres - 5;1;21;7;SW
12. 157.79 Acres - 5;2;21;1;SE
13. 148.82 Acres - 5;1;20;31;NE

Anyone interested in submitting an offer to purchase any or all of the lands described above should contact Lexy R. Wong as set out below to obtain an offer package which will contain additional information about the lands and the terms and conditions which the Estate may consider when reviewing the offers.

All offers shall be submitted in writing in the form provided in the offer package and delivered no later than 12:00 p.m. MST (noon) on April 18, 2016 to the following:

Lexy R. Wong, Bennett Jones LLP Calgary
4500 Bankers Hall East, 855 - 2nd Street SW, Calgary, AB, T2P 4K7
P. 403 298 3079 | E. WongL@bennettjones.com

MVP returns to Blue Jays

MLB

Donaldson looks forward to season after busy winter

Josh Donaldson isn't worried about the Toronto Blue Jays' offensive potential this upcoming season.

He just feels sorry for opposing pitchers.

"The fact of the matter is, you have me, then you have Jose Bautista, who hit 40 homers last year ... then Edwin Encarnacion, who's hit over 40, then Russell Martin ... (Chris) Colabello, (Justin) Smoak ... Tulo (Troy Tulowitzki) — I mean, Jesus, it just keeps going," Donaldson said.

"I wouldn't want to pitch against us. There were a lot of guys last year that we faced who were defeated before they even threw the first pitch. And those guys made their exit pretty quick."

Donaldson, the reigning MVP

of the American League, reported to Blue Jays camp Thursday after a jam-packed off-season.

He played with PGA Tour star Jason Dufner in the Pebble Beach Pro Am — where he rubbed elbows with singer Justin Timberlake — took a photo of himself with Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton at an Auburn football game (both are Tigers alumni), and even landed a speaking role on an episode of the History Channel's Canadian-Irish drama series Vikings.

"I had a great time," Donaldson said about his acting gig. "Went to Ireland (to film the episode), got to meet a lot of the cast members there, got to dress up and become a Viking. It's something that is kind of still a little bit surreal to me."

"I've never been on a TV show. I never claimed to be an actor. But now I am an actor."

Fresh off avoiding arbitration with a two-year contract worth \$28.65 million US, the all-star third baseman is entering his second season with the club.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Relaxed A-Rod ready to go

Alex Rodriguez arrived at spring training at ease. He reported last February after missing 2014 while serving a suspension for drug violations. And he was sidelined for most of 2013 following hip surgery. This year, no such issues for the 40-year-old, coming off his first season as a full-time designated hitter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curry follows up 42 with 51

Stephen Curry scored 51 points and set an NBA record with a three-pointer in his 128th consecutive game as the Golden State Warriors beat the Orlando Magic 130-114 on Thursday night.

A night after scoring 42 in a six-point win at Miami, Curry made 20 of 27 shots. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Eggs, Asparagus & Couscous



PHOTO: MAYA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This is almost not a recipe at all, which come Friday night is what we all need, right? Tell yourself you're experimenting with one of those trendy grain bowls. Or just sit down and enjoy a speedy dinner.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 cup couscous
- 16 asparagus spears
- 4 eggs (very fresh poach best)
- 2 tsp vinegar
- Parsley or chives, chopped

Directions

1. Get three pots of water boiling. One with just a bit of water for the asparagus, a very shallow pan for

the eggs and 2 cups of salted water in a pot for the couscous.

2. Add couscous to boiling water and stir. It will take up a lot of water right away. After a couple minutes, turn off heat and put the lid on the pot. Leave couscous aside to absorb remaining water.

3. Now, poach your eggs. Add vinegar to boiling water. Crack eggs into ramekins. Tip the eggs into the simmering water. Turn off heat, cover the pan and leave alone for 5 minutes.

4. In your third pot, put trimmed asparagus in boiling water until they're tender — about 3 to 5 minutes. Drain and rinse in cool water to stop them from cooking.

5. Spoon couscous onto your plate, lay down four spears of asparagus then scoop eggs out of the water with a slotted spoon and lay on top. Garnish with chives and salt and pepper.

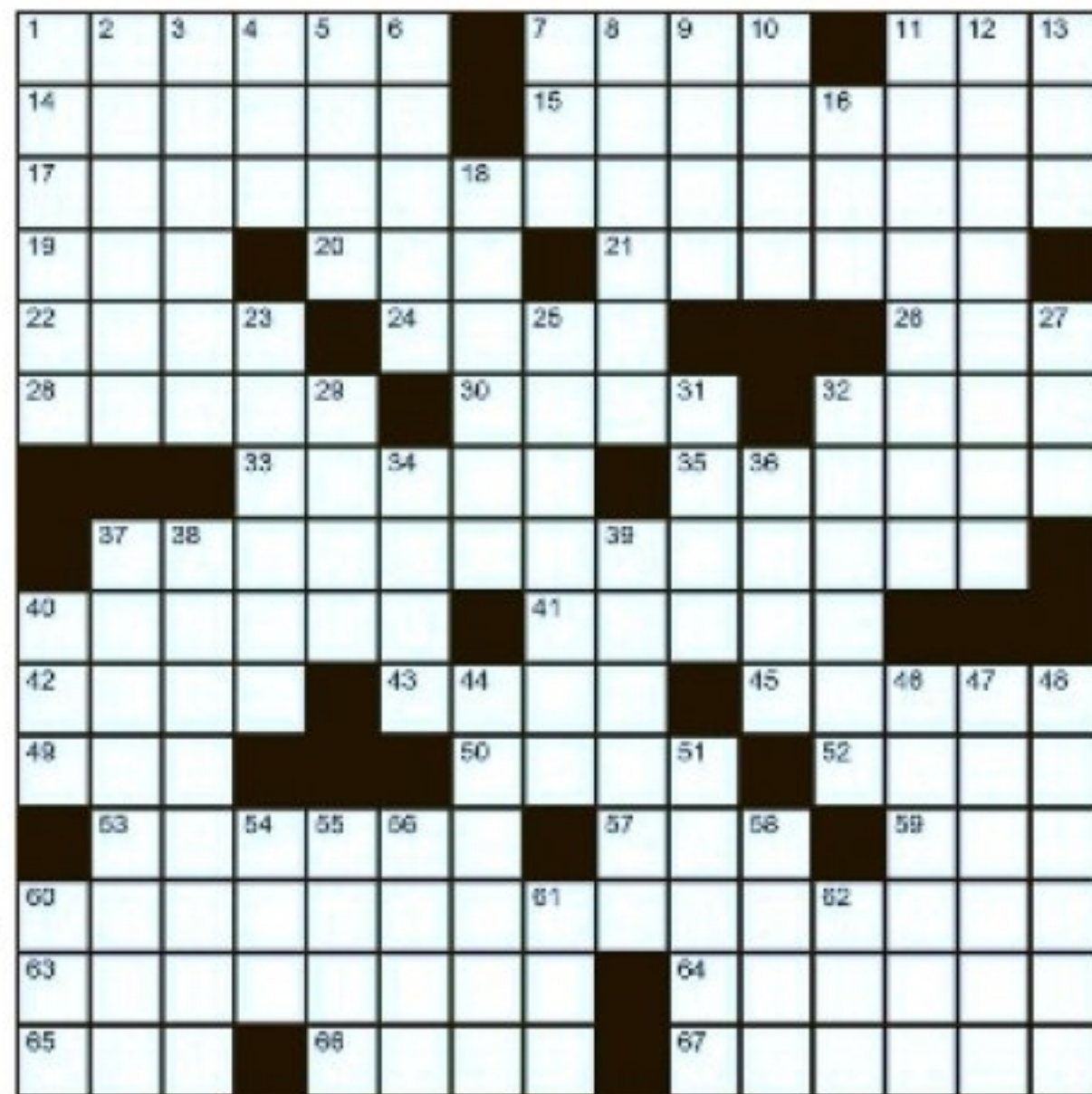
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BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. "Mutual of _ Wild Kingdom"
7. Money _ object
11. EMT's skill
14. Backstreet Boys: "All I _ Give"
15. Tofu: 2 wds.
17. Rapunzel and Rumpelstiltskin: 2 wds.
19. Profession, puny-ly
20. Down
21. Magistrates' mallets
22. Mr. LaBeouf
24. Sprint
26. Mag. edition
28. Actress Katherine
30. Volkswagen Karmann _
32. Person of the Arctic
33. " _ Was a Lady" (1945)
35. As per #37-Down, Canadian diamond producer which found the world's second-largest gem quality diamond in November of 2015
37. Extra extras are needed on a movie set for one: 3 wds.
40. Piano piece
41. English slammers
42. Web address starter
43. "House" role, Dr. Chris _
45. French operas composer, Daniel _ (b.1782 - d.1871)
49. "The 18th letter is known _ _"



50. Frankenfoods ingredients, commonly
52. Cornmeal bread
53. Outfitted one
57. Craze
59. Post-op locale
60. Though David Wei-ser designed it in 1964, it only became one of

Canada's official symbols in 2011: 3 wds.
63. Cold sufferer
64. 'B' of Samuel F.B. Morse
65. Meander
66. Pericles, Prince of _
67. Replied positively

DOWN

1. "Goodness me.": 2 wds.
2. Montreal 'market'
3. Swedish DJ/producer
4. Tailor's trimmer
5. 24-hr. bankers
6. To date: 2 wds.

7. There: Latin
8. Composer Mr. Rachmaninoff
9. Quebec water brand
10. A-ha's "The Sun Always Shines _ _"
11. The world's largest gem quality diamond, found in South Af-
rica in 1905
12. Stress causer
13. Shortened streets
16. Flight simulators co.
18. Leisurely music tempo
23. Multi-married-man/Newest-wife separator: 2 wds.
25. Enjoy a stick of Juicy Fruit: 2 wds.
27. Music style
29. Milky tip to 'ose'
31. Plus
32. Becomes frozen: 2 wds.
34. "Darn it!"
36. Calif. campus
37. Country in Africa where #35-Across' Karowe Mine is located
38. Fearless
39. Lightly remove a stain: 2 wds.
40. _ Na Na
44. Concurring person
46. Boxes: French
47. Box in
48. Met with former classmates
51. Didn't help: 2 wds.
54. Planet Melmac alien
55. Looted, archaically
56. For Better or For Worse mom
58. Challenge
60. Lettered food additive
61. 'Is', plurally
62. CV

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You want to feel that you're doing something useful with your life and with Uranus strong in your sign it's up to you to make that happen. Don't do it alone though, there are others who share your ideals.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Do something that gets you noticed and marks you both as a free thinker and person of action. Don't wait for opportunities to come to you, get out there and grab them yourself.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you get the chance to travel today you must take it, even if it means breaking other plans. People you meet while on the move will bring you luck — and maybe love too!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will have to make a number of quick decisions today. Trust your instincts and they are more likely to be smart decisions. Don't worry if some people make fun of your ideas.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
It may be frustrating that others are putting obstacles in your path but there is no point making a fuss. Just carry on as you are and believe that you will reach your goal when the time is right — and you will.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You could push yourself too hard today and over the weekend and put your wellbeing at risk. A simple rule of thumb: make sure you stay fit and healthy — don't go to extremes.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is virtually nothing you cannot do but that does not mean you are obliged to do everything. Identify the two or three aims, then focus on them to the exclusion of everything else. Success will surely follow.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you rise to the challenges that face you today you'll find ways to overcome. Family ties will work in your favour, so let loved ones know what you need.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Come and go as you please today and over the weekend. Once you get over the fear that others might disapprove of your actions there is nothing that can hold you back.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It feels as if something important is leaving your life but don't worry because something better will replace it. Remember that you deserve the best — because then you will get it.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The Sun left your birth sign a week ago but that does not mean your luck has changed. On the contrary, where money matters are concerned everything seems in order. Put some cash aside for a rainy day.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Your mind is being overwhelmed by so senseless chatter. Find a quiet place where you can be on your own, a sacred spot where you can get your thoughts together.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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GO THE EXTRA MILE

Starting the race to heaven is good but finishing well is desirable and gives you access through the narrow gate. This alludes to the word of Jesus which says, "The door to heaven is narrow. Work hard to get in, for the truth is that many will try to enter but when the head of the house has locked the door, it will be too late" (Luke 13: 24 & 25a TLB). It is only Jesus that can help you start a race and finish well.

For prayers and counseling call the pastor at 587.579.0454

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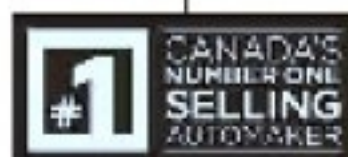


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